

# 19

Days of activism for prevention of abuse and violence against children/youth  
Jours d'activisme pour la prévention des abus/violence envers enfants/jeunes  
Días de activismo para la prevención del abuso/violencia contra los niños/jóvenes  
Tage Aktivismus Prävention von Missbrauch/Gewalt gegen Kinder/Jugendliche

1-19 November



Edition 2020-2021



## 19 Days Activism Kit 1-19 Nov. 2020 Prevention of Violence & Abuse against Children & Youth



**It takes compassion to end violence against children & youth**

**SDG Target 16.2 needs our contributions!** [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch) - [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch)

<b>1</b>  Prevention of Children in Armed Conflict	<b>2</b>  Prevention of Child Sexual abuse	<b>3</b>  Prevention of Bullying	<b>4</b>  Prevention of Neglect	<b>5</b>  Prevention of Child Labor	<b>6</b>  Prevention of Corporal Punishment
<b>7</b>  Prevention of Sale of Children	<b>8</b>  Prevention of Child Prostitution	<b>9</b>  Prevention of CSAM	<b>10</b>  Prevention of Child Trafficking	<b>11</b>  Prevention of Child Sex Tourism	<b>12</b>  Prevention of Harmful Traditions
<b>13</b>  Street Children	<b>14</b>  Prevention of Discrimination based on health	<b>15</b>  Prevention of Addiction and Substance Abuse	<b>16</b>  Prevention of Malnutrition	<b>17</b>  Prevention of ICTs Dangers	<b>18</b>  Prevention of Abduction
<b>19</b>  Juvenile Justice & Juvenile Death Penalty	<b>19 Nov. 2020</b>  <small>WORLD DAY Prevention of Violence against Children &amp; Youth - SDG Target 16.2 - In connection with Universal Children's Day</small>	<b>20 Nov. 2020</b>  Universal Children's Day	 <b>YOUTH ENGAGE</b> SDG Target 16.2 19 Days of Activism	 <b>End Violence Against Children</b> <small>MEMBER of the Global Partnership</small>	<b>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</b> 

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WWSF Children / Youth Section

#EndViolence #19DaysWWSF



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WWSF, a Swiss Foundation and an International empowerment network for women, children and youth, serves with its annual initiatives, campaigns, world days and prize awards the implementation of women and children's rights and the United Nations Development Agenda 2030.

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### Brief history of the WWSF Children-Youth section

**2000** launch **World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse - 19 November** (annual empowerment campaign)  
**2004** launch WWSF Prize for Innovative Prevention Measures to empower active and registered coalition partners  
**2008** launch WWSF Guide "Prevention is Key," a handbook for citizen action to create change  
**2010** launch YouthEngage.com to mobilize young people for prevention & 10th anniversary of World Day 19 Nov.  
**2011** launch **First edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit 19 Days Activism 1-19 November**  
**2012** launch Second edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme "Children involved in armed conflict"  
**2013** launch Third edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme "Sale of children, child prostitution & child pornography"  
**2014** launch Fourth edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme "Addiction and substance abuse"  
**2015** launch Fifth edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme "Bullying"  
**2016** launch Sixth edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme "Malnutrition" + Link to SDGs  
**2017** Seventh edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme "Traditional Practices/Circles of Compassion"  
**2018** Eighth edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme: Corporal punishment / 19 November World Day  
**2019** Ninth edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme: Discrimination Based on Health Conditions  
**2020** Tenth edition Call to Action-Prevention Kit & main theme: Prevention of Child sexual abuse & violence

# Introduction

## Message from the WWSF President, Convener of the 19 Days Campaign

The Campaign supports the emergence of a global culture for prevention of violence against children and youth, and supports the realization of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030 and in particular **SDG Target #16.2**



July 2020



Dear 19 Days Campaign Partners and Friends,

The **COVID-19** pandemic has changed our lives and the way we work, learn and connect. As the virus still spreads around the world, we are alarmed by the devastation of lives it already caused with no end in sight in many countries. COVID-19 is demonstrating that we are all together in this health crisis and that no one is safe until everyone is safe. Our thoughts go to all who have passed away.

We wish to inform you that our 10th edition of the **annual Campaign Kit for the prevention of violence and abuse against children and youth 1-19 November 2020** is published online for you to consult and to register your local and/or national program of action.

We also acknowledge and wish to thank the 104 coalition partners who sent us last year their action programs, and especially acknowledge all those among you who sent us their 2019 activity report, which we summarized in our annual GLOBAL IMPACT REPORT, published on our website <https://www.woman.ch/19-days-of-activism-prevention-kit/global-impact-report-2019/>

Solidarity and multi-stakeholder cooperation are needed now more than ever, and we count on all the civil society actors to transform their communities compassionately. Guidelines on how to create your "Circles of Compassion" can be found here <https://www.woman.ch/19-days-of-activism-prevention-kit/training-workshops-creating-circles-of-compassion/>

WWSF publishes, since 2010, its annual campaign Kit with the aim to reach out and mobilize increased civil society action and help create a global network for NGOs and grass-roots groups, share innovative measures to create a culture of prevention of violence and abuse against children and youth. We see ourselves as "wind in the sail" for the relevant UN agencies that especially call on the governments of the world to create national plans for prevention of child abuse and violence.

"**COVID-19** is a test of our societies, governments, communities and individuals. It is a time for solidarity and cooperation to tackle the virus, and mitigate effects. Respect for human rights across the spectrum, including economic, social, cultural, and civil and political rights, will be fundamental to the success of the public health response and recovery from the pandemic..." <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/COVID19Guidance.aspx>

WWSF invites you, your organization and networks to continue using our Prevention Kit to mobilize your communities and to empower people everywhere in achieving the **Sustainable Development Goal - Target #16.2: to end violence against children and youth**.

Our world is moving into greater awareness of the tremendous challenges we all face and the wellbeing of children and young people needs to be on the top of the list in delivering a world fit for children and youth.

**As always, we thank you in advance for registering your 2020 program of activities on line.** This link gives you access to our new Registration form <https://www.woman.ch/registration-form-for-the-19-days-campaign/> and wish you lots of success in transforming your communities. We are the ones the world has been waiting for,

We are grateful for our sponsors, staff and interns who prepare the bulk of our annual campaign programs. We acknowledge in particular Lubna Allam, Deborah Marolf and Allison Pierok for their assistance in research and communication skills in preparing this year's kit.

We look forward to hearing from you and remain, as always, in a spirit of partnership and solidarity.



**Elly Pradervand**, WWSF President /CEO  
and UN Representative, in collaboration with  
the WWSF Campaign Team



**It takes compassion to end violence against children & youth**  
**SDG Target 16.2** needs our contributions ! [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch) - [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch)

**WWSF motto:** Regularly reminding ourselves that our annual campaigns, Prize awards, World days and empowerment programs only make sense if local community partners make use of them and create change in the lives of the abused and marginalized, realizing that they are the real actors of transformation in their communities. Together we shall achieve what no one can do alone!

Please share the PDF of the 19 Days Kit 2020 (published on our website <https://www.woman.ch/19-days-of-activism-prevention-kit/>) with your network and friends!



# COVID-19 Confinement: For many women and children, the home is not a safe place



## Executive Summary of UN Policy

### Brief :

#### Impact of COVID-19 on children (15 April 2020)

[https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/policy\\_brief\\_on\\_covid\\_impact\\_on\\_children\\_16\\_april\\_2020.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/policy_brief_on_covid_impact_on_children_16_april_2020.pdf)

« Children are not the face of this pandemic. But they risk being among its biggest victims. While they have thankfully been largely spared from the direct health effects of COVID-19 - at least to date – the crisis is having a profound effect on their wellbeing. All children, of all ages, and in all countries, are being affected, in particular by the socio-economic impacts and, in some cases, by mitigation measures that may inadvertently do more harm than good. This is a universal crisis and, for some children, the impact will be lifelong.

Moreover, the harmful effects of this pandemic will not be distributed equally. They are expected to be most damaging for children in the poorest countries, and in the poorest neighbourhoods, and for those in already disadvantaged or vulnerable situations.

There are three main channels through which children are affected by this crisis: infection with the virus itself; the immediate socioeconomic impacts of measures to stop transmission of the virus and end the pandemic; and the potential longer-term effects of delayed implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### All of this is affecting children in multiple ways:

✓ **Falling into poverty:** An estimated 42-66 million children could fall into extreme poverty as a result of the crisis this year, adding to the estimated 386 million children already in extreme poverty in 2019.

✓ **Exacerbating the learning crisis:** 188 countries have imposed countrywide school closures, affecting more than 1.5 billion children and youth. The potential losses that may accrue in learning for today's young generation, and for the development of their human capital, are hard to fathom. More than two-thirds of countries have introduced a national distance learning platform, but among low-income countries the share is only 30 percent. Before this crisis, almost one third of the world's young people were already digitally excluded.

#### ✓ Threats to child survival and health:

Economic hardship experienced by families as a result of the global economic downturn could result in hundreds of thousands of additional child deaths in 2020, reversing the last 2 to 3 years of progress in reducing infant mortality within a single year. And this alarming figure does not even take into account services disrupted due to the crisis – it only reflects the current relationship between economies and mortality, so is likely an under-estimate of the impact. Rising malnutrition is expected as 368.5 million children across 143 countries who normally rely on school meals for a reliable source of daily nutrition must now look to other sources. The risks to child mental health and wellbeing are also considerable. Refugee and internally displaced children as well as those living in detention and situations of active conflict are especially vulnerable.

✓ **Risks for child safety:** Lockdowns and shelter in place measures come with heightened risk of children witnessing or suffering violence and abuse. Children in conflict settings, as well as those living in unsanitary and crowded conditions such as refugee and IDP settlements, are also at considerable risk. Children's reliance on online platforms for distance learning has also increased their risk of exposure to inappropriate content and online predators. This policy brief provides a deeper analysis of these effects. It identifies also a series of immediate and sustained actions for the attention of governments and policymakers, including in relation to the following three priorities:

- **Rebalance** the combination of interventions to minimize the impact of standard physical distancing and lockdown strategies on children in low-income countries and communities and expand social protection programmes to reach the most vulnerable children.

- **Prioritize** the continuity of child-centred services, with a particular focus on equity of access – particularly in relation to schooling, nutrition programmes, immunization and other maternal and newborn care, and community-based child protection programmes.

- **Provide** practical support to parents and caregivers, including how to talk about the pandemic with children, how to manage their own mental health and the mental health of their children, and tools to help support their children's learning.

For each of the above, specific protections must be put in place for vulnerable children including refugees, the displaced, homeless, migrants, minorities, slum-dwellers, children living with disabilities, street children, living in refugee settlements, and children in institutions.

**Now is the time** to step up international solidarity for children and humanity— and to lay the foundations for a deeper transformation of the way we nurture and invest in our world's youngest generation.

The United Nations system – our agencies, funds, programmes and the Secretariat entities – are working across all settings and stand ready to support all governments and societies. »

#### Protect our Children - Message from the UN Secretary-General António Guterres

<https://www.un.org/en/un-coronavirus-communications-team/protect-our-children>

#### Guidelines to protect yourselves, visit the WHO special guidance

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advise-for-public>

Stay aware of the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak, available on the WHO website and through your national and local public health authority.

# Reminder of the UN Sustainable Development Goal Target #16.2

Among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the 19 Days Campaign promotes the urgent realization of **SDG Target #16.2** described below. Given the Corona Virus pandemic, this Target has become a very challenging prospect to be reached by 2030. For that reason WWSF wishes to propose to all the coalition member organizations to introduce, wherever possible, to introduce the Target, wherever possible.



## **#16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children**

"Research shows that "abuse and maltreatment can lead to life-long physical and mental health problems, lower educational achievement, and can even affect a child's brain development. Victims of violence are more likely to become future perpetrators, feeding a cycle that consumes lives."

In addition, there are large economic effects. Countries that do not address issues of violence against children end up losing significant amounts of money. Physical, psychological, and sexual violence against children can cost governments up to US \$7 trillion a year." <sup>1</sup>



### **Other relevant SDG Targets for the 19 Days Campaign include:**

**5.2:** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation

**5.3:** Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation

**8.7:** Elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including slavery and human trafficking recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms

**4.a:** Provide safe, non-violent, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all

**4.7:** Ensure that all learners acquire knowledge...(for) promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence

### **Reduce the impact of violence in their families and communities...**

**16.1:** Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

**16.2:** See above

**16.3:** Promote the rule of law at the national & international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all

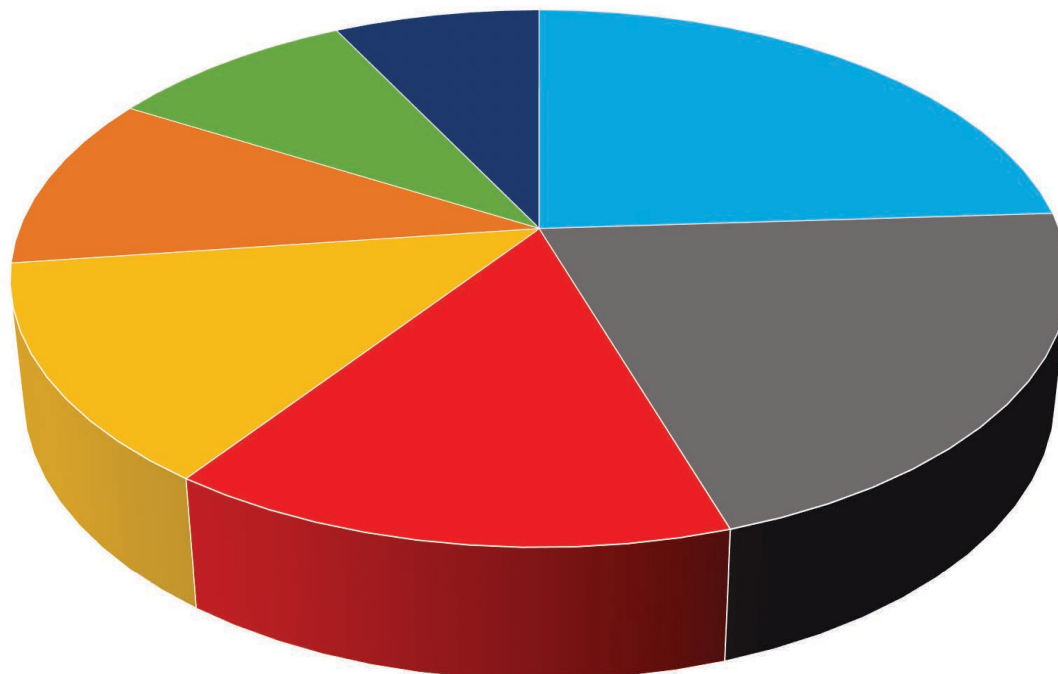
**16.9:** Provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

**16.a:** Strengthen relevant institutions... to prevent violence

1- [http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/working\\_to\\_end\\_violence\\_against\\_children\\_french.pdf](http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/working_to_end_violence_against_children_french.pdf)

# Acknowledgement of selected civil society actions by coalition member organizations in 2019

**19 Days of Activism for Prevention of Violence Against Children and Youth**  
1-19 November 2019 - Annual WWSF Campaign - Display of activities by active coalition members.



- Public Events (stands, presentations, workshops, speeches)
- Media (TV, radio, social media)
- World Day 19 November (annual partnerships)
- Public Displays (posters, banners, leaflets, etc.)
- Local Partnerships (schools, hospitals, police, NGOs)
- Sports and Arts (sport matches, art exhibits)
- Circles of Compassion (schools and communities)

**Udisha, India**  
reached out to around  
**2'000** children,  
parents and the  
general public

**Centre for  
Human Rights  
(AMOS),  
Macedonia**  
more than **500**  
people attended a  
performance by  
**214** children  
and **26** teachers

**The PO Drugie  
Foundation,  
Poland**  
mobilized **254**  
partners and over  
**400** institutions  
and reached out to  
over **12'000** people

# Examples of selected coalition member activities

(cont'd.)



**mobilized in 2019 1'023 schools,  
285'000 students,**

more than **35'000** teachers, psychologists,  
policemen, social workers, journalists, physicians  
and parents

Organized over **100** workshops, roundtables,  
debates, local, regional and national TV stations,  
over **8'000** direct activities carried out with and by  
children in kindergardens and participating schools.  
Local institutions involved in the campaign included  
public social services from over 1'000 localities.

Carried out over **700** activities with parents or  
grandparents and family members of children (in  
cases where parents are going to work abroad)  
more then **4'000** meetings with specialists  
(policemen, doctors, psychologists, priests etc.),  
over **100** circles of compassion and  
Forum theatre and puppet shows.

**All 19 Campaign themes were covered: sexual abuse,  
bullying, neglect and exploitation of children, physical  
abuse (corporal punishment), child prostitution and  
child pornography, trafficking in children, traditional  
harmful practices, street children, substance abuse  
and addiction, juvenile justice, and special attention  
paid to November 2, November 19 (International Day  
for the Prevention of Child Abuse) and  
November 20, 30th anniversary  
of the Convention  
on the Rights of the Child**

**Village of Hope  
Community based  
Organization, Kenya**  
reached  
close to **3'500**  
people in the sub county  
of Kenya

**Giving Children  
Hope Initiative,  
Uganda**  
reached over **50'000**  
people during their  
activities in the media  
and outreach  
activities.

**The Child Protection  
Network, Nigeria**  
reached over a **million**  
**listeners** with 12 different  
programs on 7 different radio  
outlets

**The 19 Days  
Campaign  
2019**  
reached overall  
more than  
**1 million**  
children &  
adults





# Recipients of the 2019 WWSF Prize for Innovative Prevention Initiatives

(selected from the 2019 activity reports received)

## 16th Prize edition

**WWSF Prize US\$ 1000 each**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Village of Hope Community Based Organization**  
*Kendu Bay Town, Kenya*



Village of Hope reached close to 3'500 people during their campaign which selected the following themes for action: discrimination based on health conditions, sexual abuse, bullying, neglect, child labor, corporal punishment, child prostitution, child pornography, addiction and substance abuse, malnutrition, dangers of ICTs and juvenile justice.

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## **The Child Protection Network**

*Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria*



The Child protection Network tackled 12 of the 19 Campaign themes: children in armed conflict, child sexual abuse, bullying, child neglect, sale of children, child prostitution, harmful traditional practices, discrimination based on health conditions, dangers of ICTs, juvenile justice and juvenile death penalty and Universal Children's Day.



# Why 19 Days of Activism?

Because abuse and violence against children and youth continue to be a worldwide phenomenon, which violate children's rights, impair their healthy development and take place in all contexts from the home to justice systems, The Campaign aims to mobilize and encourage local

and national civil society activities for better prevention. By using the 19 Days coalition building process, we can increase solidarity and activism to create a worldwide commitment for the end of violence against children and youth by 2030.



**Annual 19 Days Campaign Kit available [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)**

The children are waiting for our contributions. It takes compassion to end violence against children.

## Women's World Summit Foundation - Call to Action!

### Prevention of violence against children & youth

Children in armed conflict	Prevention of sexual abuse	Prevention of bullying	Prevention of neglect
Prevention of child labor	Prevention of corporal punishment	Prevention of the sale of children	Prevention of child prostitution
Prevention of CSAM	Prevention of child trafficking	Prevention of child sex tourism	Prevention of harmful traditions
Street children	Disabilities	Prevention of substance abuse	Prevention of malnutrition
Prevention of ICTs Dangers	Prevention of abduction	Juvenile Justice	19-20 Nov. World Days Circles of Compassion



SDG Target # 16.2

## Selected Facts and Figures

(source: UN SDG #16.2)

- Violence against children affects more than 1 billion children around the world and costs societies up to US\$ 7 trillion a year
- 50% of the world's children experience violence every year
- Every 5 minutes, somewhere in the world, a child is killed by violence
- 1 in 10 children is sexually abused before the age of 18
- 9 in 10 children live in countries where corporal punishment is not fully prohibited, leaving 732 million children without legal protection
- 1 in 3 internet users worldwide is a child and 800 million of them use social media. Any child can become a victim of online violence
- Child online sexual abuse reports to NCMEC has grown from 1 million in 2014 to 45 million in 2018.
- 246 million children worldwide affected by school-related violence each year
- 1 in 3 students has been bullied by their peers at school in the last month, and at least 1 in 10 children have experienced cyberbullying

## Other Facts

(source: UN Agencies)

- 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 5 boys will be sexually abused before they reach the age of 18.
- 1 million children are coerced, kidnapped, sold and tricked into child prostitution or child pornography each year.
- 100 million children live or work in the streets facing daily discrimination, violence and exploitation.
- 168 million children around the world are engaged in child labor. Of these, 85 million children are exposed to hazardous work that poses a danger to their health and safety.
- Only 46 States have introduced a comprehensive ban on corporal punishment.
- Estimated 13.5 million children – most of them girls – will be married before they turn 18. About 4.4 million of them will be married before they turn 15.
- Over 200 million girls and women worldwide are currently living with the consequences of FGM.
- It is estimated that at least 1 million children are deprived of their liberty worldwide.
- As many as 150 million girls & 73 million boys worldwide are raped or subject to sexual violence each year, usually by someone in their family circle.
- Children with disabilities are 3-4 times more likely to be victims of violence.
- An estimated 250,000 children are being recruited and used by diverse armed forces/groups.
- Between 80 and 100 million girls are 'missing' from the world's population – victims of gender-based infanticide, femicide, malnutrition and neglect.
- Close to 300 million children aged 2-4 worldwide experience violent discipline by their caregiver on a regular basis.
- Poor nutrition causes nearly half (45%) of death in children under 5 – 3.1 million children each year.

# What is the Campaign "19 Days of Activism for Prevention of Violence and Abuse Against Children & Youth 1-19 November"

## What is Activism?

Activism is taking action to affect social change, which can occur in many ways. Most often it entails action to change the world - socially, politically, economically - or by addressing human rights and/or environmental issues. Activism can be led by individuals, but is mostly done through social movements, and in the case of the 19 Days campaign, we use coalition building and civil society movements to catalyze activities and generate change in communities and nations.

## What is the 19 Days Prevention Campaign?

It is a multi-issue **CALL TO ORGANIZE FOR ACTION** to change social behavior, educate, and mobilize diverse organizations and civil society partners – including young people – to become involved in prevention of one or more of the 19 abuse themes listed below. To help create a culture for better prevention, the end of violence against children and youth, support the implementation of the UN Study recommendations, and last but not least to reach the promised 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, **we must unite in collaborative action.**

## What are the 19 Campaign Themes?

Although other forms of abuse and violence exist, WWSF has selected the following 19 themes with the main theme for 2020 being **Prevention of Child sexual violence and abuse**

- 1 **Prevention** of Children in armed conflict
- 2 **Prevention** of Child sexual violence and abuse
- 3 **Prevention** of Bullying
- 4 **Prevention** of Neglect
- 5 **Prevention** of Child labor
- 6 **Prevention** of Corporal punishment
- 7 **Prevention** of Sale of children
- 8 **Prevention** of Child prostitution
- 9 **Prevention** of Child CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material)
- 10 **Prevention** of Child trafficking
- 11 **Prevention** of Child sex tourism
- 12 **Prevention** of Harmful traditional practices
- 13 **Prevention** of Street children
- 14 **Prevention** of Discrimination based on health conditions
- 15 **Prevention** of Addiction and substance abuse
- 16 **Prevention** of Malnutrition
- 17 **Preventio**n of Dangers of ICTs (Information and communications technology)
- 18 **Prevention** of Abduction
- 19 **Juvenile Justice and Children deprived of liberty / World Day for prevention of violence against children/youth 19 Nov.**

The 19 Days Campaign was created to be in synergy with the Universal Children's Day, promoting the Convention on the Rights of the Child



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# What is Prevention of Violence and Abuse Against Children and Youth

## Definition of a child

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), a child is “every human being below the age of 18, unless under applicable law majority is attained earlier” (Article 1).

## Definition of child abuse

Child abuse includes all types of **physical, emotional and sexual abuse and violence, as well as neglect, negligence and commercial or other forms of exploitation**, towards children below 18 years of age. It results in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power. Exposure to intimate partner violence is also sometimes included as a form of child maltreatment (WHO).



Wotclef, Nigeria

## What is prevention?

**Prevention is key!** It is about setting up guidelines and learned behavior that create obstacles to perpetrators. It is the most effective way to protect children from abuse and greatly contributes to creating a culture of non-violence. Prevention should be implemented through social and general policies, involving organizations, governments, youth and faith-based groups, families, schools and professionals. It is a fact that prevention is better and cheaper than reacting to abuse and violence. The transformation from a culture of reaction to a culture of prevention is urgently needed.

**“Prevention is not only possible, it is essential.** In addition to being a human rights obligation on States, violence carries huge social, economic and health costs, and drains public budgets and it is only by addressing the underlying causes of violence that these costs will be reduced. Prevention is ultimately about creating relationships, communities, and organizations that are equal, non-violent, and respectful of all individuals and where people live free from discrimination, harassment or violence that can block them from reaching their full human potential.” (UN Women interview with Lara Fergus)

## The goal of prevention is to create an environment that

- **Challenges** social norms, which tolerate abuse and violence
- **Enhances** the capacity of all to build safer homes, schools, institutions, workplaces and communities for our children and youth

“While there is no doubt about the need to assist victims [of abuse and violence] and to guarantee their safety, priority should always be given to preventive measures.” (WHO)

## Preventive action is often presented in three categories:

- **Primary prevention** targets the general population and is cheaper and more effective in the long run. Activities are focused on raising awareness about child abuse and violence. They may include campaigns aimed at children and adults such as public service announcements that encourage positive parenting, parent education programs that focus on healthy child development and programs for Internet prevention of violence.
- **Secondary prevention** targets «at risk» sectors of the population. Activities are focused on “specific sections of the child population considered more at risk of being abused and specific of the adult population considered to be more at risk of abusing.” Examples of secondary prevention include young parent support services and respite services (Austrian Institute of Criminology Journal 2000).
- **Tertiary prevention** focuses on families and other settings where abuse has already occurred. Activities are focused on seeking to reduce the negative effects of abuse and to prevent its recurrence. These may include mental health services for children and families affected by the abuse and/or parent/mentor programs with non-abusing families (Child Welfare Information Gateway).



# Reminder of relevant articles in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

(Summary of the CRC, see pages 79-80)



## Article 19

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programs to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.

## Article 34

States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:

- (a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;
- (b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;
- (c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

## Article 35

States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.

## Article 36

States Parties shall protect the child against all other forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspect of the child's welfare.

## Article 38

States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.



Link to <http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>

# Updates on Universal Ratifications and various Optional Protocols (as of 2020)

## Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

- 196 State Parties have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The United States of America is the only UN member-state that has not ratified the CRC

## Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC)

- Handbook on the Optional Protocol <http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/547>
- Status: 121 Signatories and 176 Parties
- Child-Friendly Version of OPSC

States who are party to the Optional Protocol on the sale children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC) have the obligation to prohibit, criminalize, prevent, and ensure accountability for offences of sexual violence and exploitation.

## Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC)

- Status: 130 Signatories and 170 Parties

The Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC) prohibits children from taking part in hostilities, urges all States to set their minimum age of conscription to 18 years, and prohibits the recruitment under the age of 18 by non-state armed groups.

## Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure (OPCP)

- On 14 April 2014, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure (OPCP) came into force. The new Protocol enables children and their representatives to submit complaints of specific human rights violations (as outlined in the CRC, OPSC and OPAC) directly to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- This possibility is available to children whose governments have ratified the Third Optional Protocol
- Status: 52 signatories and 46 parties

Link to the Guide for Non-governmental Organizations  
[https://www.childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Guide\\_OP\\_EN\\_web.pdf](https://www.childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Guide_OP_EN_web.pdf)

« The Optional Protocols gives children who have exhausted all legal avenues in their own countries the possibility of applying to the Committee. It means children are able to fully exercise their rights and are empowered to have access to international human rights bodies in the same way adults are under several other human rights treaties. It is a major step forward in the implementation of children's rights, but at the same time we urge States to develop their own systems to ensure that children's rights are respected and protected and that their voices can be heard ».

CRC-former Chair Kirsten Sandberg  
OHCHR News 14 January 2014

# Committee on the Rights of the Child and 30th Anniversary in 2019



**Luis Pedernera**, UN expert, is the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

« **The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is the body of 18 Independent experts that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by its State parties.** It also monitors implementation of two Optional Protocols to the Convention, on involvement of children in armed conflict and on sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. On 19 December 2011, the UN General Assembly approved a third Optional Protocol on a communications procedure, which will allow individual children to submit complaints regarding specific violations of their rights under the Convention and its first two optional protocols. The Protocol entered into force in April 2014. »

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/crc/pages/crcindex.aspx>



**"The Committee on the Rights of the Child warns of the grave physical, emotional and psychological effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and calls on States to protect the rights of children"** (8 April 2020)

To read about the warning: [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT/CRC/STA/9095&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT/CRC/STA/9095&Lang=en)

## Brief Reports of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2019



The Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child was celebrated at the UN in Geneva and provided a unique opportunity to put children's rights, the Convention (along with its Optional Protocols) and its relevance for global peaceful development and co-existence high on the international agenda. Many actors and children took the floor to share concerns about the future of the world's children who are waiting for our contributions and resolve to leave no one behind.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/CRC30.aspx>



Child Rights Connect has been the expert organisation on the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and its liaison with children's rights defenders, including children, from around the world for more than 30 years. « The organization provides knowledge, advice and connections to children's rights defenders, including children, on how to influence and use the UN human rights system for sustainable change at national level. »

<https://www.childrightsconnect.org/30th-anniversary-of-the-un-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/#:~:text=1989%2D2019%3A%2030th%20Anniversary%20of,of%20children%20around%20the%20world>



WWSF 19 Days of activism campaign invited its international coalition network to mark the 30th anniversary with activities and event and sent us reports of their activities. Our 2019 GLOBAL CAMPAIGN IMPACT REPORT (<https://www.woman.ch/19-days-of-activism-prevention-kit/global-impact-report-2019/>) highlights activities carried out coalition members.

Examples : see pages 6 - 7.

To read the summary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child consult pages 79 - 80.



# Appointment of Najat Maalla M'jid of Morocco as Special Representative on Violence Against Children at the level of Assistant Secretary-General to succeed Marta Santos Pais



## Najat MAALLA M'JID

(Morocco)

was appointed the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children in May 2019.

She acts as an independent global advocate for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children. The mandate of the SRSG on Violence against Children is anchored in human rights standards, and promotes the universal ratification and effective implementation of core international human rights conventions.



## Leaving Covid19 and violence outside the door; today my thought goes to the most vulnerable of all in this crisis: children - SRSG Maalla M'jid

25 Mar 2020

"Just like violence, the Covid 19 doesn't differentiate. It affects us all. Regardless of gender, wealth, age, race, beliefs, we are all exposed to the threat. We are all potential victims.

As a paediatrician, I have access to information. I understand it in a different way than most of the population. As a UN staff member, I've been working tirelessly to overcome this crisis. As an adult I can access information and understand to the extent possible what is going on. For most children things are not as easy. Many children are confused and afraid.

These are indeed difficult times. With the doors locked hoping that the Covid 19 doesn't knock and enter without invitation, we witness the devastating effect that an epidemic disease can cause:

In times like these children become more vulnerable to violence. Families are under increased stress: increased isolation, potential unemployment, lack of income, food and other necessities, and even becoming ill. Children's routine is shattered - no schooling, no access to friends, leisure, sports, bombardment of scary news, unable to socialize, etc. Around the world children are being told or forced to stay home, to live in isolation often in stressful environments - quarantined in confined spaces; with the uncertainty of family employment, income, food availability.

For children in vulnerable situations, deprived of protective environment - refugees, migrants, undocumented, living

in poverty, in humanitarian settings, in street situation, in institutions, or detained, things are even worse: living in dangerous crowded situations, decrease of protection, no access to health, less services, staff, or being forced to live as if everything was normal, having to work or beg and overexposing themselves to becoming ill.

In times like these, the risk of reducing or even cutting budget dedicated to child and social protection by Governments worldwide increases exponentially, making more and more children vulnerable.

So it is up to us all, in every house, to promote safe and nurturing environments. To take this unique opportunity to being more supportive and caring than ever.

To take this unique opportunity to make each of us, especially children, stronger. One day at a time. This is not the time to panic. It is time to stay safe, to show solidarity, to become aware of the potential dangers faced by children. It is time to pay particular attention to children and mainly the most vulnerable.

Leaving the virus and violence outside the door. Leaving no child behind."

Najat Maalla M'jid

Source: Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence Against Children  
<https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/news/leaving-covid19-and-violence-outside-door-today-my-thought-goes-most-vulnerable-all-crisis>

# Message from the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict



**Virginia Gamba (Argentina)**  
**UN Under-Secretary-General**  
**Special Representative**  
**of the Secretary-General**  
**for Children and Armed Conflict**



**"It is an honor for me to commemorate with you the 2020 International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, albeit facing the added challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic."**

My Office is mandated by the General Assembly, and requested by the Security Council, to monitor and report on violations affecting children in situations of armed conflict. Sexual violence against boys and girls is one of the most important violations we monitor, along with the killing and maiming of children, their recruitment and use, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals and denial of humanitarian access. We do this through a Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism, which verified 735 cases of sexual violence, including rape, against children in 2019 occurring in the 19 situations covered by my agenda. These figures and more detailed information can be found in the latest report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/15-June-2020-Secretary-General\\_Report\\_on\\_CAAC\\_Eng.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/15-June-2020-Secretary-General_Report_on_CAAC_Eng.pdf)

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and the Central African Republic accumulated the highest figures for 2019. But we also know that sexual violence is the most underreported violation for reasons of stigma experienced by survivors, rejection by families and communities, lack of accountability for perpetrators, and lack of access to medical and other resources services. The actual number of survivors of sexual violence is staggering.

A worrying trend that we noticed in the latest Secretary-General's Annual Report on CAAC is the attribution of incidents of sexual violence, which is almost equal between governmental forces and armed groups. We further noticed that commitments and efforts put in place by parties to conflict, such as action plans, national legislation and accountability for perpetrators, are not reflected in the verified numbers of sexual violence. In other words: Sexual violence as a grave violation is not just underreported; parties

do not seem to take this violation in all seriousness, despite commitments to end and prevent the violation. This must change.

## **Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,**

The COVID-19 pandemic presents the United Nations with new challenges on an unprecedented scale. On 23 March 2020, the Secretary-General called for a global ceasefire to refocus attention on the true fight: defeating the pandemic. Peace remains the best way to ensure that boys and girls are maximally protected from experiencing any of the six grave violations, including rape and other forms of sexual violence. As the Secretary-General has highlighted, the most vulnerable populations are hit the hardest by the pandemic and lockdowns; these are the women, displaced persons and children, with children in conflict situations or child refugees bearing a disproportionate burden. To date, parties in at least 11 countries have committed to halt hostilities, including several on the Children and Armed Conflict agenda. Parties in Cameroon, Colombia, the Central African Republic, the Philippines, Sudan, Syria and Yemen have declared ceasefires. We publicly applaud these efforts and urge other countries and parties to conflict to follow suit. I will continue to appeal to parties to halt their fire, and to engage with them to protect children.

## **Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,**

While the full impact of COVID-19 on boys and girls living in armed conflict, including in situations of detention, will only be exposed over time, we know already that further lack of access to healthcare and other basic services which are fragile at best in situations of conflict is creating special challenges to girl and boy survivors of sexual violence that need urgent and specialized medical and psychological support. Another problem arises with COVID-19 lockdowns because these can amplify the threat to children of being subjected to violence due to greater military and armed presence in cities and villages, and of being recruited, used, abducted, or sexually violated due to push and pull factors in the economic downturn created by the lockdown measures.

Lastly, the release and reintegration of children associated with parties to conflict remains a top priority, also true for our partners such as UNICEF, however, the

COVID-19 response is challenging the release and reintegration of boys and girls in many ways. For example, COVID-19-related restrictions of movement impact child protection actors' ability to move freely and to provide children with access to the services they desperately need upon release. Such restrictions may also interrupt the release process. Reintegration support, including mental health and psychosocial support for survivors of sexual violence, is being further delayed. In some instances, governments have restricted access to verification sites, and interim care centers may be unsafe for children during the pandemic.

Restrictions may also negatively impact child protection actors' ability to monitor and report on violations. The fear of COVID-19 has further amplified barriers to reporting sexual violence to child protection actors or to health workers, hence survivors of sexual violence might not be reached.

I am also extremely concerned that vulnerability of boys and girls to become victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence will increase due to weakened child protection mechanisms and a reduced presence of child protection actors. In this regard, we will hear more from the Women's Protection Advisers on the ground, but we note that while our teams remain committed to the monitoring and reporting on violations against children in armed conflict, they are also involved in general UN support to national responses to the pandemic. Our monitoring and reporting capacity may also be affected by lockdowns and other movement restrictions; and our capacity to verify information will likely be impacted.

Our teams on the ground are continually evaluating the situation and developing mitigation measures, including business continuity strategies with local partners. With Governments' focus pivoting towards the pandemic, as well as governmental offices and non-State armed groups in various degrees of lockdown, there is less capacity to address violations against children, including sexual violence.

For all of these reasons, and in these extraordinary times, It is critical that we do not forget children affected by armed conflict when responding to the pandemic, as their protection, release, and reintegration remains more important than ever. I call on Member States to ensure that boys and girls receive the necessary support to meet their critical needs, including the specific needs of survivors of sexual violence. Thank you."

**Source:** <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/2020/06/international-day-for-the-elimination-of-sexual-violence-in-conflict-statement-by-srsg-virginia-gamba/>

# Welcome to the newly appointed UN Special Rapporteur on sale and sexual exploitation of children



## **Mama Fatima SINGATEH (Gambia)**

**was appointed as the new UN Special Rapporteur on sale and sexual exploitation of children by the UN Human Rights Council in May 2020.**

"Ms. Mama Fatima Singhateh (The Gambia) was appointed as the UN Special Rapporteur on sale and sexual exploitation of children by the UN Human Rights Council in March 2020. She is a trained lawyer with almost 20 years of experience. Ms. Singhateh has held a number of high-level positions in public service in the Gambia. She holds a master's degree in International Business Law from the University of Hull and has undergone numerous trainings in child rights programming, arbitration and mediation, and legislative drafting. She has drafted laws, organized and conducted numerous training sessions, delivered presentations at both national and international fora and written articles and reports on issues relating to the promotion and protection of the rights of the child."

## **News Release 20 May 2020**



### **COVID-19: Urgent need for child protection services to mitigate the risk of child sexual abuse and exploitation worldwide**

"GENEVA (6 May 2020) – A UN human rights expert, Mama Fatima Singhateh, warned that a reported surge in violence against children and new forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of them during COVID-19 lockdowns will have lifelong implications for millions worldwide."

She mentioned:

"Between 42 million and 66 million children worldwide are already in a precarious socio-economic situation, even before the hidden impact of the COVID-19 crisis emerged."

"The damage to millions of children will be devastating if we are slow in mobilising child protection services for early detection and prevention."

"Comprehensive mapping and rapid and responsive child protection measures are paramount to assess the magnitude of this crisis on the most vulnerable children, including those who are refugees, displaced, homeless, migrants, minorities, slum-dwellers, living with disabilities, living on the streets, living in refugee settlements, and in institutions."

"The independent expert also said COVID-19 travel restrictions had spawned new forms of child sexual exploitation and abuse, including attempts to establish a "delivery" or "drive-thru" service for sexual exploitation of children.

"There has also been a spike in the number of attempts to access illegal websites featuring child sexual abuse material. Producing and accessing child sexual abuse material and live-stream child sexual abuse online has now become an easy alternative to groom and lure children into sexual activities and to trade images in online communities," Singhateh said.

The COVID-19 pandemic will leave those already left behind trailing even further behind. "Our commitments made under Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to leave no one behind is now more relevant than ever."

Social benefits and social protection nets should prioritise low-income and vulnerable communities and families to alleviate COVID-19 collateral damage on children, the expert said.

Victim and survivor outreach, non-discriminatory child protection systems, public education and awareness campaigns, expanded helpline services and safe accommodation were among essential measures to mitigate harm.

"The UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on children should serve as a roadmap to shape our response to the crisis. In doing so, children should be given the space for meaningful and inclusive participation so that their voices would be heard and amplified in decisions affecting their lives," Singhateh concluded."

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25865&LangID=E>



**We thank Ms. Maud de Boer-Buquicchio for her 6 years of service as Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse.**

**Her last Annual Report on the sale and sexual exploitation of children is available here:**  
<https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/43/40>



# 2020 Campaign Poster

# 1-19 Novembre 2020

# 19 Days Activism

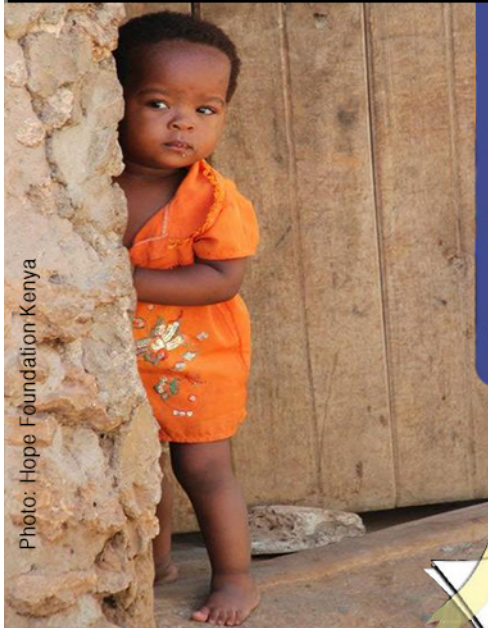



Photo: Hope Foundation Kenya

**Supporting SDG Target #16.2**  
**Prevention of abuse and violence against children and youth**




NOVEMBER 2020


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

World Day

**PREVENTION IS KEY**



**16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**





**19 Days Campaign organizer**  
**Women's World Summit Foundation - WWSF**  
Children - Youth Section  
PO Box 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland  
wdpca@wwsf.ch - Tel: +41 22 738 66 19

**#19DaysWWSF**  
[www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

**19** Days of Activism Prevention abuse and violence against Children/Youth  
Jours d'activisme Prévention abus/violence envers Enfants/Jeunes  
Días Activismo Prevención del Abuso/violencia contra los Niños/Jóvenes  
Tage Aktivismus Prävention von Missbrauch/Gewalt gegen Kinder/Jugendliche

1-19 November



# Prevention of Children in Armed Conflict



Updated version 2020

This is the first day of the Campaign  
1-19 November 2020!

The issue of children in armed conflict remains a central issue in our general efforts to draw continued attention on prevention of violence and abuse against children and youth.

## Definition of a child soldier

"Any person below 18 years of age who is, or who has been recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including, but not limited to, children, boys and girls, used as fighters, cooks, porters, spies, or for sexual purposes."<sup>1</sup>

## Definition of Recruitment

Recruitment refers to compulsory, forced or voluntary conscription or enlistment of children into any kind of armed force or armed group(s) under the age stipulated in the international treaties applicable to the armed force or armed group in question.

Children are affected by armed conflict in many ways. The United Nations Security Council has identified **six grave violations in connection to children in armed conflict:**<sup>2</sup>

- Killing and maiming of children
- Recruitment or use of children as soldiers
- Sexual violence against children
- Attacks against schools or hospitals
- Denial of humanitarian access for children
- Abduction of children

**Sustainable Development Goals by 2030**



UNITED NATIONS, 25 June 2020

(IPS) - The current coronavirus pandemic is having a profound affect on children in conflict zones — with girls especially being at higher risk of violence and sexual health concerns.

"For adolescent girls specifically, these disruptions can have profound consequences, including increased rates of pregnancy and child, early, and forced marriage."

Shannon Kowalski, director of advocacy and policy at the [International Women's Health Coalition](https://www.un.org.sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/15-June-2020_Secretary-General_Report_on_CAAC_Eng.pdf) (IWHC), told IPS.

**UN Secretary-General Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict - 2019.** You can read the full report here: [https://www.un.org.sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/15-June-2020\\_Secretary-General\\_Report\\_on\\_CAAC\\_Eng.pdf](https://www.un.org.sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/15-June-2020_Secretary-General_Report_on_CAAC_Eng.pdf)

## Between Despair and Hope for Millions of Children in Armed Conflict, Imperative to Actively Implement Ceasefires & Peace Processes

Article by Fabienne Vinet (Communications Officer, Office of the SRSG for CAAC) on the *UN Secretary-General Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict*

"New York, 15 June 2020 – The tragedy of boys and girls used and abused in, for and by armed conflict continued unabated during 2019, as the UN verified over 25,000 grave violations against children including late verification, highlighted the latest Annual Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict. The overall number of grave violations remains similar to the number reported in 2018 and represents some 70 violations per day.

"The childhood of these boys and girls has been replaced by pain, brutality and fear while the world watches. Parties to conflict neglect to protect children in the conduct of hostilities and deny them the vital aid they desperately need. Cont'd. on next page.

Children are considered an economically efficient alternative to adult combatants. They are easily indoctrinated and are efficient fighters because they have not yet developed a concept of death.<sup>3</sup>



As part of recruitment, children are often forced to kill or maim a family member, a tactic to increase trauma and break community bonds.<sup>4</sup>

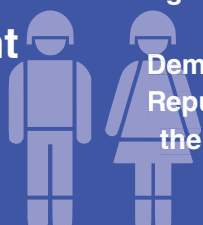
The notion of schools as zones of peace is challenged in many conflicts. Schools are used for military purposes and students teachers and schools targeted. Conflict and insecurity can result in the closure or disrupted functioning of schools and hospitals, preventing access to education and health care for boys and girls.<sup>7</sup>

**240** million children today live in countries affected by ongoing conflict.<sup>6</sup>

**46**

State militaries around the world continue to recruit children under the age of 18.<sup>6</sup>

The UN's 2019 child recruitment list.<sup>5</sup>



Afghanistan  
Burma  
Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Iran

Iraq  
Mali  
Somalia  
South Sudan  
Syria  
Yemen

**56** armed groups and seven state forces named by the UN Secretary-General as guilty of child recruitment in 2017.<sup>6</sup>

1 - Paris Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups, 2007 2 - <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/effects-of-conflict/six-grave-violations/> 3 - <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/effects-of-conflict/root-causes-of-child-soldiering/> 4 - <https://www.warchild.org.uk/what-we-do/protection/child-soldiers> 5 - US Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, 2019. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Trafficking-in-Persons-Report.pdf> 6 - [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/CSI\\_annual\\_report\\_2018.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/CSI_annual_report_2018.pdf) 7 - <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/>

# Prevention of Children in Armed Conflict cont'd.



## cont'd. Article by Fabienne Vinet

"By violating the rules of war, parties endanger their own children", said the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC), Ms. Virginia Gamba.

The most shocking increase (more than 400%) is seen in the denial of humanitarian access to children, with 4,400 verified incidents. The report highlights violence against humanitarian workers and impediments to their work, the looting of supplies and restrictions of movement, among the many disruptions in the provision of basic assistance to children. Yemen, Mali, the Central African Republic (CAR), Israel and the State of Palestine and Syria are the most concerning situations.

The lack of respect for the civilian character of schools and hospitals remained also extremely concerning, with 927 incidents of attacks on schools and hospitals and their protected persons verified, mainly in Afghanistan, Israel and State of Palestine and Syria. Overall, millions of children were deprived of education and health care as a direct result of attacks, misuses or because of school closures and/or due to military use.

Boys and girls continued to endure sexual violence with 735 cases verified, however the violation is vastly underreported. The largest verified numbers correspond to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Somalia and the Central African Republic. Factors such as impunity for perpetrators and lack of access to justice, fear of stigma and lack of services for survivors, are largely the cause of under-reporting.

"I call on all parties to conflict to immediately prioritize humanitarian access to children and vulnerable populations in situations of armed conflict, and to allow child protection experts and humanitarians to do their work. I commend the courage and dedication of these humanitarian professionals and call on all Member States to support the work of child protection actors in the field," said the UN Special Representative, said Ms. Virginia Gamba.

The report also notes that the cross-border nature of conflict remained of concern, including in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin regions. To address the plight and vulnerability of those boys and girls, the Secretary-General will include two new situations of concern in his next Report on CAAC: Burkina Faso and Cameroon. The Special Representative and her Office stand ready to continue to support efforts to protect children in the regions.

The situation of children detained for their actual or alleged association with parties to conflict, including possible associations with UN designated terrorist groups, remained alarming with over 2,500 children detained. The Special Representative reminds that children must be treated primarily as victims, and detention used only as a measure of last resort, for the shortest period and alternatives to detention actively sought. She further calls on all concerned Member States to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of children stranded in camps in Iraq and Syria to their countries of origin or to the countries of origin of their parents.

**"Despair vs Hope: Children Trapped in Conflict Dynamics"**  
Though still high, the overall number of children killed or maimed decreased to more than 10,000 including late verification (12,014 in 2018), with Afghanistan remaining the deadliest

country for children, followed by Syria and Yemen. One out of four child casualties were caused by ERW (Explosive Remnants of War), IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) or landmines, underscoring the responsibility of parties and governments in securing and clearing these deadly weapons.

The recruitment and use of children (more than 7,000), although lower than 2018 if we distinguish late verifications, is still concerning. Most cases were perpetrated by non-State actors in the DRC, Somalia and Syria. As regards to governmental actors, the Special Representative reiterates her call on Member States that have not yet ratified OPAC [1] to do so, as this year marks the 20th anniversary of the Optional Protocol.

Lastly, some 1,683 children (vs 2,493 in 2018) were abducted, notably for the purpose of recruitment and sexual abuse, with the highest verified cases in Somalia, DRC and Nigeria. Progress, as in some lower violations, resulted from the United Nations' continued engagement with parties to conflict on action plans and commitments. These included measures such as laws on child protection, justice for victims and greater access for child protection actors to release recruited children. During 2019, over 30 action plans, roadmaps, command orders and other measures to protect children were taken by parties to conflict with the engagement of the United Nations, many of which led to the separation of children from ranks.

Ending the cycle of violence for children in armed conflict also requires providing comprehensive reintegration programmes including education, psychosocial support, health and jobs. The Special Representative calls on the International Community to continue to support reintegration efforts, including through the Global Coalition for Reintegration of Child Soldiers.

Enhanced prevention efforts have benefited children during 2019, leading to the release or separation of over 13,200 children from armed forces or armed groups. Such efforts include regional engagement for peace in line with Security Council Resolution 2427 (2018) and political willingness of parties to engage in peace dialogue and declare ceasefires agenda, such as Afghanistan, CAR, South Sudan, Sudan, Myanmar and Yemen, are engaged in some peace processes (...).

She added that the Practical Guidance for mediators to protect children in situations of armed conflicts, launched in early 2020, remains a crucial tool to support that endeavor. "Peace remains the most powerful means to reduce violations against children. I echo once again the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire, not only as we fight the COVID-19 pandemic, but beyond, as children in armed conflict and their families urgently need peace – and the protection that comes with it," she added."

[1] The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

Fabienne Vinet, Communications Officer, Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.  
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With courtesy of Watchlist on Children & Armed Conflict

# Children and Armed Conflict

## Children and Armed Conflict Monthly Update - July 2020

### Targeted Recommendations to the UN Security Council and Its Working Group

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict is pleased to announce the publication of its Children and Armed Conflict Monthly Update – July 2020.

This month's update highlights children and armed conflict concerns and provides recommendations to the Security Council for the protection of children in Central African Republic, Syria, and Yemen. This update also provides recommendations ahead of the Security Council Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict is a network of local, national, and international non-governmental organizations striving to end violations against children in armed conflicts and to guarantee their rights. Monthly updates are based on the experience of Watchlist and its member organizations in specific country situations and Watchlist's expertise in over a decade of engagement with the Security Council's children and armed conflict agenda.

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#### READ MORE :

[https://watchlist.org/wp-content/uploads/2020\\_07\\_cac-monthly\\_final.pdf](https://watchlist.org/wp-content/uploads/2020_07_cac-monthly_final.pdf)

#### NGO Resources Related to Children and Armed Conflict

- Human Rights Watch, Record Number of Countries on US Child Soldier Blacklist, 29 June 2020
- World Vision, A Decade Forgotten: Protecting Children in Conflict, June 26, 2020
- World Vision, COVID-19 and Urgent Need for Child-Sensitive Social Protection, June 24, 2020
- Amnesty International, UN: Children Must Never Be a Political Bargaining Chip, June 23, 2020
- Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict et al., Open Letter to the Secretary-General on the 2020 Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict, June 22, 2020
- Save the Children, Myanmar: Conflict Leads to Six-Fold Increase in Killing and Maiming in First Three Months of This Year, June 22, 2020
- Plan International, Adolescent Girls in Crisis: Voices from the Sahel, June 18, 2020
- Terre des Hommes, How Are Children in Detention Affected by COVID-19?, June 8, 2020
- Amnesty International, 'We Dried Our Tears': Addressing the Toll on Children of Northeast Nigeria's Conflict, 27 May 2020

### About Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict is a global network of international human rights and humanitarian non-governmental organizations which strives to end violations against children in armed conflicts through local partnerships, reporting, and advocacy.

To subscribe to Watchlist updates and recommendations, [click here](http://watchlist.org/#get-involved) or visit: <http://watchlist.org/#get-involved>

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[https://watchlist.org/wp-content/uploads/2020\\_07\\_cac-monthly\\_final.pdf](https://watchlist.org/wp-content/uploads/2020_07_cac-monthly_final.pdf)

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/06/29/record-number-countries-us-child-soldier-blacklist>

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# Prevention of Children in Armed Conflict cont'd.

## General Ideas for Action!



### 1 Lobby the government

if your country is involved in armed conflict, to develop or implement an Action Plan to ensure child protection <http://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/our-work/action-plans>

### 2 Develop

a legal framework ensuring that children formerly associated with armed groups/forces are considered not as criminals but as victims and have access to recovery and rehabilitation

### 3 Develop / improve

birth registration and census systems, facilitate family tracing, and help assess the number of children recruited or vulnerable to recruitment

### 4 Raise

funds or resources in favor of rehabilitation centers

### 5 Visit

rehabilitation centers for demobilized children and organize meetings/discussions with children, staff and affected persons

### 6 Ensure

that training is provided for all professionals working with children affected by armed conflict

### 7 Organize

walks, marches or any other public action showing your solidarity with these children even if your own country/region is now itself at war, with the hashtag #childrennotsoldiers to show your support

### 8 Introduce

peace education programs in schools

### 9 Support

Children to be Human Rights Defenders and support organizations that provide support to victims of grave violations

### 10 Create

awareness about the fifty countries that still allow the recruitment of children in armed forces

### 11 Ensure

child victims of grave violations are treated primarily as victims\*



### Demand

from your government to respect and uphold the UN Secretary-General's call for a ceasefire, as well as putting an immediate end to the recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts, as well as the release of all children, while prioritizing reintegration assistance in the context of the pandemic.



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Learn about your rights and about this topic and become a Human Rights Defender: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/Defender.aspx>
- Help spread awareness on this topic by sharing our hashtags below on social media or create your own
- Understand and share that the battlefield is not a place for young people and do not think of war as a game
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Check the Summary <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>
- Stay informed and share news about what is happening to children growing up in countries affected by conflict
- Promote a culture of peace and support initiatives that helps create communities that are more secure for children



Young people need to develop crucial skills to cope with the effects of the Corona Virus Pandemic in their future work and prospects

- Empower youth leaders to drive social innovation, communities, to change regulations and help to end violence against children and youth

**Youth:**  
15 to 24 years.  
1.2 billion estimated worldwide

## IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Strengthen local capacity to assist children affected by war\*
- Increase efforts to ensure that children have access to humanitarian assistance, even in times of conflict\*

\*source: [www.childrenandarmedconflict.un.org](http://www.childrenandarmedconflict.un.org)



Solidarity is also necessary in active conflict situations where responding to the UN Secretary-General's global ceasefire call would allow the world to only focus together on the true fight – against COVID-19."

[https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/160420\\_Covid\\_Children\\_Policy\\_Brief.pdf](https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/160420_Covid_Children_Policy_Brief.pdf)

- Promote the creation of community Circles of compassion (See pages 67 -69)

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #Childrennotsoldiers

# 2 Prevention of Child Sexual Violence & Abuse

Main theme 2020 « No violence against children is justifiable and that all violence against children is preventable. »<sup>7</sup>



Updated version 2020

## Definition

Child sexual abuse is the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, for which the child is not developmentally prepared, or that violates the laws or social norms of society.

Child sexual abuse consists of the activity between a child and an adult or between a child and another child, who by age or development is in a relationship of responsibility, trust or power, with the activity being intended to gratify or satisfy the needs of the other person.<sup>1</sup>

**Context/situations where sexual abuse can occur.** Family, schools (including journey to and from school), medical sector, judicial facilities and institutions, in the context of an armed conflict, on the Internet and via social media, etc.

## Consequences of sexual abuse

Psychological and physical effects such as unwanted pregnancies, gynecological complications, sexually transmitted diseases, mental health problems, suicidal behavior, social exclusion, stigma, etc.

Sexual violence against children is also «mostly invisible» and goes largely undocumented stating that fear of «getting into trouble» as well as shame and stigma all contribute to children not reporting. (Unicef).

## Selected Facts and Figures

source: UN SDG #16.2

- **Violence against children affects more than 1 billion children around the world & costs societies up to US\$ 7 trillion a year**
- **50% of the world's children experience violence every year**
- **Every 5 minutes, somewhere in the world, a child is killed by violence**
- **1 in 10 children is sexually abused before the age of 18**
- **Child online sexual abuse reports to NCMEC has grown from 1 million in 2014 to 45 million in 2018.**

## 18 June 2020 News release

### UN“Global status report on preventing violence against children 2020”

We take this opportunity to share with our coalition network the UN “Global status report on preventing violence against children 2020”, which calls primarily for increased government action and warns of the dramatic impact of COVID-19.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/18-06-2020-countries-failing-to-prevent-violence-against-children-agencies-warn>

**"Specific aims of the report are to document if governments:**

- **have in place national plans of action,** policies and laws that are consistent with those identified as effective by the INSPIRE strategies
- **are accurately measuring fatal and non-fatal instances of violence**
- **have established quantified baseline and target values** against which to monitor their progress in ending violence against children
- **are supporting the implementation of evidence-based interventions** along the lines of those included under the seven INSPIRE strategies which is a collection of evidence-based recommendations on how to prevent and respond to violence against children."

**"Every year, 1 billion children to be exposed to violence and more than 200 million of these children are sexually abused and exploited. This means that close to 50% of all children are victims of violence, yet unfortunately this issue remains a hidden global epidemic. Increasingly much of this sexual abuse takes place online or is captured and digitally distributed. In this case, the internet is an enabler of abuse and exploitation."(WHO)<sup>5</sup>**

Still today in 2020, we learn that “every year, at least a billion children are exposed to violence. Every five minutes, a child dies a violent death (Hillis et al.2016) somewhere around the world.”<sup>2</sup>

**Ground-breaking research** released by INTERPOL and ECPAT International into the online sexual exploitation of children suggests that when online images or videos of child sexual abuse depict boys or very young children, the abuse is more likely to be severe.<sup>3</sup>



## Relevant SDG by 2030

"End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children"

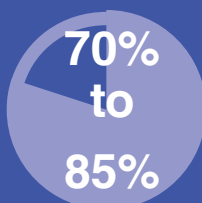
## Alarming News.

"Online child sexual abuse, pornography, exploitation are reaching a breaking point. The images are horrific. Children, some just 3 or 4 years old, being sexually abused and in some cases tortured."

According to a New York Times article in 2019, "technology companies reported a record of 45 million online photos and videos of the abuse last year. More than a decade ago this number was less than a million. (...) The Times reporting revealed a problem global in scope."<sup>6</sup>

1 - WHO, Report on the Consultation of Child Abuse Prevention, 1999. 2 - <https://www.humandignity.foundation/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/The-Global-Partnership-Strategy.pdf> 3 - <http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/TOWARDS-A-GLOBAL-INDICATOR-ON-UNIDENTIFIED-VICTIMS-IN-CHILD-SEXUAL-EXPLOITATION-MATERIAL-Summary-Report.pdf> 4 - [http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/1in5/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/1in5/default_en.asp) 5 - [https://www.broadbandcommission.org/Documents/working-groups/ChildOnlineSafety\\_Declaration.pdf](https://www.broadbandcommission.org/Documents/working-groups/ChildOnlineSafety_Declaration.pdf) 6 - <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/09/28/us/child-sex-abuse.html> 7 - <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/world-report-violence-against-children> 8 - <https://www.unicef.org/end-violence>

**Worldwide, around 15 million adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 have experienced forced sex in their lifetime.<sup>8</sup>**



of sexual abuse cases, the abuser is somebody that the child knows and trusts.<sup>4</sup>



# Prevention of Child Sexual Violence & Abuse

Main theme 2020 *cont'd.*



## Staggering rise in abhorrent material

In her report, the UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse, Ms. de Boer-Buquicchio, said that **in 2017**, there were **78,589** online sites containing child sexual abuse material.

**By 2018**, the number of websites showing this material had **increased by 32 per cent.**

The UN Special Rapporteur also told the UN Human Rights Council that **in 2019**, the International Criminal Police Organization, INTERPOL, held as potential evidence **more than 1.5 million images and videos.**

She also cited studies showing what she called “an extremely alarming pattern of increasingly younger victims often being subjected to severe abuse”, with 28 per cent of victims younger than 10 years old.

To read excerpts of her recommendations, see Theme 8 on page 39.

Source : <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1058501>

## A crisis at its breaking point – 45 million online child sexual abuse images reported in 2018



« There is an alarming growth in child sexual abuse material online. A New York Times article (2019) revealed that tech companies reported 45 million online child sexual abuse images and videos last year (2018). ECPAT and other dedicated organisations have been raising this issue for a long time, which is now described as a crisis at its breaking point. »

Source: <https://www.ecpat.org/news/online-child-sexual-abuse-material-the-facts/>

“Trends in online child sexual abuse material”, available at this source: <https://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/ECPAT-International-Report-Trends-in-Online-Child-Sexual-Abuse-Material-2018.pdf>

« 45 million online child sexual abuse pictures and videos were reported by US-based tech companies last year – twice as many as the year before. These are not “just” images or videos, but evidence of severe sexual abuse of millions of children around the world. »

*“In interviews, victims across the United States described in heart-wrenching detail how their lives had been upended by the abuse. Children, raped by relatives and strangers alike, being told it was normal. Adults, now years removed from their abuse, still living in fear of being recognized from photos and videos on the internet. And parents of the abused, struggling to cope with the guilt of not having prevented it and their powerlessness over stopping its online spread.” – The New York Times.*

**Research from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children also highlights the extreme growth of child sexual abuse reports.**

- 1998: 3000 reports
- 2014: 1 million reports
- 2018: 18,4 million reports
- 2019: 16,9 million reports (69,1 million images and videos)

Source: <https://www.missingkids.org/HOME>

## Understanding the crime is crucial to preventing it

“To be able to more effectively act to prevent this crime we need to better understand it. We need to understand technology and the way the material is shared online, but also trends in victim, offender and content characteristics over time. It’s crucial that law enforcement agencies throughout the world have databases and the ability to track relevant information about the material they process and investigate. It is not enough to have large databases with lots of variables, rather we need robust databases with useful, and carefully defined variables to act to prevent this crime from happening and find victims when it does.”

Read full report: Trends in online child sexual abuse material.

<https://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/ECPAT-International-Report-Trends-in-Online-Child-Sexual-Abuse-Material-2018.pdf>

## Internet Safety at Home

“As adults and children alike have turned to digital tools for school, work, and socialization, online safety matters now more than ever.

Here are **five tips** for keeping kids safer online, adapted to fit the current “safer at home” environment.

*Even if our online habits have changed significantly, you can still set boundaries that work for your family and schedule. Involving children in setting these rules may help them stick to the guidelines.*

### Consider:

- Distance learning tasks before social media or gaming
- No devices during meals
- At least \_\_\_\_ minutes of non-electronic activities per day
- “Digital curfew”: no devices after a certain hour

*Even the strictest monitoring programs and content blockers can’t ensure that children are totally protected online. The best tools for keeping kids safe are time, attention and active conversation about digital behaviors.*

### Consider:

Setting up workstations for children and teens that provide quick visual access to the screens for easy check-ins from parents/ caretakers as they telework or complete household tasks.

*Take advantage of this time at home and online to get more familiar with the technology platforms your child likes to use. Taking a genuine interest in the games and platforms your child enjoys will help you better understand what your child is doing online*

### Consider :

If you’re teleworking, take a short break to join your child on a round on the game console, or forward a funny meme or video you saw on one of the social media channels they use. It’s a quick way to show you’re willing and able to be involved in your child’s online life.

# 2 Prevention of Child Sexual Violence & Abuse

Main theme 2020 *cont'd.*



Chat “in real life” with your children. With our social lives being conducted entirely online these days, it’s important to have face-to-face discussions about how children and teens are maintaining healthy relationships online, and to give them opportunities to also talk about anything unhealthy or uncomfortable happening to them online.

## Consider :

Showing that you’re willing to listen and respond calmly, even if what you hear is uncomfortable or troubling.

-----

Taking away internet access because a child has made a mistake online rarely solves the problem. Taking access away during a lockdown would likely do far more harm than good. Beyond affecting a child’s ability to complete distance-learning tasks, it would all but completely isolate them from friends and other family; a support system that is essential right now. Find ways to give consequences that don’t involve removing online access entirely.

## Consider:

If you must, limit access (shorter window for digital socializing, gaming, restricted use to certain public areas of the house, etc.) rather than removing it entirely”

Source: <https://www.missingkids.org/content/dam/netSMARTZ/downloadable/tipsheets/Internet-Safety-at-Home-EN-ES.pdf>



## Alarm

« Machakos Children Officer Salome Muthama who on June 16, 2020 revealed that some 3,964 teenage girls in the county had become pregnant between January and May 2020.

## Nairobi

“The articles all cited data from a recently released Kenya government health information survey, and most attributed the high pregnancy numbers to the COVID-19 lockdown. That seemed to make sense. Since the pandemic hit Kenya in mid-March, healthcare providers have been warning about its potential to increase rates of teenage pregnancies.

School closures have cut off girls from teachers who can sound the alarm in suspected cases of abuse at home, and students have been left idle and often unchaperoned by busy parents. Restrictions on movement have also made it harder for girls to access contraceptives and family planning services, and mandatory curfews have trapped girls in homes with predatory family members and neighbours.

But many of the articles published last month failed to put the numbers of teen pregnancies into context. In Kenya, high-risk early pregnancy has long been a societal challenge. Government demographic data from 2014, the latest available, show that 15 percent of girls aged 15-19 had already given birth, and another three percent were pregnant with their first child – the highest rates in East Africa.

Underpinning any COVID-19-related rise in teen pregnancies are other significant challenges, including insufficient funding for reproductive health services and a lack of comprehensive sex education in schools – which have contributed to Kenya’s alarming numbers.

## COVID-19 makes it worse

“Comprehensive national data on the impact of COVID-19 on teen pregnancy rates are not yet available. At least anecdotally, though, some healthcare providers suspect a coronavirus effect. Last September, Ashley Okoth\*, a high school student living in a remote village in western Kenya, boarded a public bus to travel to the nearest city to visit her aunt. She sat next to an older man, who seemed friendly and started chatting with her. By the end of the ride, Okoth had taken his number, and the two began texting.

Okoth was an eager student, who enjoyed physics, math, and geography and loved playing baseball and handball with her friends. She planned to attend university to become a teacher. So Okoth was devastated when COVID-19 closed her school in mid-March, and her days blurred into a mundane routine of doing chores and helping her mother at her job as a sand harvester.

With time on her hands, Okoth decided to visit the man from the bus, and they had sex. Just weeks later, Okoth realised she was pregnant. She says her father will prevent her from returning to school — a punishment for her pregnancy.

“I wish I had been going to school, because if I had been [occupied] going to school, this would have not happened,” Okoth told The New Humanitarian. “I feel bad because my dream has failed now just because of my pregnancy.”

Elizabeth Mariara is a nurse running a reproductive health clinic in rural Kenya. The number of pregnant 16-18 year olds coming to her clinic between April and June 2018 was four; then three in 2019. This year, that number jumped to 30 for the period.

Mariara said she is also seeing a rise in teenage girls who say they are pregnant from incest. She had never encountered an incest case before, she said, but this year she has already had two.

“You know everybody being at home, even the uncles and the family are not even working,” she told TNH. “They’re still at home. They take advantage of the girl child.”

(...)The global gag rule has “made it worse,” said Chatterjee. “The institutions that used to provide those services...[have] had to shut down... And therefore the opportunities of access to knowledge and reproductive health services have virtually diminished.”

“The institutions that used to provide those services...[have] had to shut down... And therefore the opportunities of access to knowledge and reproductive health services have virtually diminished.”

“The Reproductive Health Network Kenya (RHNK), a group of pro-choice health providers and advocacy organisations, purchases contraceptives and other healthcare items and distributes them to smaller providers across the country. The group has refused to adhere to the US policy limitations and no longer receives funds from Washington. Institutions that used to get the funds from the American government are now hit so much because they do not have budget lines to take care of COVID,” she added.

Source: [https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news/2020/07/13/Kenya-teen-pregnancy-coronavirus?utm\\_source=The+New+Humanitarian&utm\\_campaign=6a45d7b842-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_07\\_13\\_2020\\_DAILY&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_d842d98289-6a45d7b842-15654885](https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news/2020/07/13/Kenya-teen-pregnancy-coronavirus?utm_source=The+New+Humanitarian&utm_campaign=6a45d7b842-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_07_13_2020_DAILY&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d842d98289-6a45d7b842-15654885)

# 2 Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse & Violence

cont'd.



## General Ideas for Action!

### 1 Ensure

that your government is implementing SDG target 16.2: « to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against children »

### 2 Listen

to children and give them the opportunity to express their views and treat them with respect

### 3 Training

children in schools and communities on the prevention of abuse and violence against children

### 4 Speak

out earlier about sexual advances and abuse

### 5 Promote

the establishment of comprehensive sexuality education in schools

### 6 Request

local and national authorities to set up and update profiles of known pedophiles

### 7 Request

that Interpol set up and update files of known pedophiles

### 8 Initiate

programs that help break the prevailing collective silence on issues on child sexual abuse

### 9 Support

networking and alliance building between children- and civil society organizations/ local authorities/ governments to strengthen prevention measures of abuse and violence

### 10 Support

and develop skills to enable adults who work with youth for meaningful and ethical participation with children for the prevention of child abuse



### COVID-19

increases the risk of child sexual abuse and violence when schools are closed and freedom of movements are restricted



### Be vigilant

during the pandemic if you need to replace your caregiver/ day-care provider, be aware that child sexual abuse most often happens within the family



### Ensure

that measures are in place to prevent, protect and mitigate the consequences of all forms of violence, stigma and discrimination against adolescents and youth - especially girls and young women - during quarantine and self-isolation processes and procedures.

[https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19\\_Preparedness\\_and\\_Response\\_-\\_UNFPA\\_Interim\\_Technical\\_Briefs\\_Adolescents\\_and\\_Young\\_People\\_23\\_March\\_2020.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19_Preparedness_and_Response_-_UNFPA_Interim_Technical_Briefs_Adolescents_and_Young_People_23_March_2020.pdf)



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Speak up if you see, hear or experience any form of sexual abuse
- Request sex education in your school and participate and engage in prevention activities in your school and community
- Ensure your inclusion in research, planning, developing, implementing, and monitoring prevention activities and programs
- Create youth associations and organizations, youth groups and local centers and facilitate sharing about abuses and violence against children and youth
- Help spread awareness on this topic by sharing our hashtags below on social media
- Create circles of compassion
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Check the Summary <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>
- Listen to the questions and anxieties of young people
- Explain to your peers COVID-19 and what adults are doing to meet children's needs



**Youth:**  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

## IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Empower civil society community learning about prevention of abuse and violence against children
- Accompany your congregation with PPE (Personal protective equipment) recommendations and advice for COVID-19
- Promote the creation of community circles of compassion to increase action and to achieve the SDG Goal #16.2
- Link to Faith and Children's Rights: A Multi-religious Study on the Convention on the Rights of the Child: [https://arigatouinternational.org/images/zdocs/files/209\\_CRC-Full-Study-Publication-web\\_compressed\\_v2\\_r3.pdf](https://arigatouinternational.org/images/zdocs/files/209_CRC-Full-Study-Publication-web_compressed_v2_r3.pdf)
- Ensure religious texts, scriptures, teachings and traditional ceremonies and practices are used to promote respect for children – not to condone or perpetrate violence against children



#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventChildSexualAbuse

2020 Call to Action Kit 19 Days of Activism for prevention of violence against children and youth 1-19 November  
Convener: Women's World Summit Foundation / Children-Youth Section - [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)



# Theme 3 Prevention of Bullying



Updated version 2020

## Definition

Bullying is a form of aggressive behavior that occurs in an intentional and repeated manner causing another child to feel hurt. Bullying can take multiple forms, including spreading rumors, threatening, physical or verbal assault, engaging in insidious practices such as excluding a child from a group to hurt him/her, or any other gestures or actions that occur in a less visible manner.<sup>1</sup>

## What are the types of bullying ?

- **Physical:** such as hitting, punching, kicking, or stealing or damaging property or belongings of someone else.
- **Verbal:** such as name-calling, putdowns, mocking, labelling and threatening.
- **Social:** such as ignoring or leaving someone out intentionally, excluding from a group, or spreading rumors about him/her.
- **Psychological:** nasty looks, stalking, manipulating someone to think bullying is a figment of his/her own imagination.<sup>1</sup>
- **"Cyberbullying"** is another violation of the rights of children. UNICEF defines "cyberbullying" as using electronic messages to harass, threaten, or target another person. Often adults are unaware that it is happening, and so they cannot help. Because of connectivity, environments that might once have been a sanctuary for the child, in particular his or her home, are turned into an arena of secret torment."

## Consequences of bullying:

There are many negative long-term effects for children who have been bullied including psychological outcomes such as depression, anxiety, and low life satisfaction.

**Other consequences** include a heightened risk of eating disorders and social and relationship difficulties, like loneliness and social withdrawal.

## What are signs that a child is being bullied ?

- Unexplainable injuries
- Lost or destroyed clothing, books, electronics, or jewelry
- Frequent headaches or stomach aches, feeling sick or faking illness

- Changes in eating habits, like suddenly skipping meals or binge eating. Kids may come home from school hungry because they did not eat lunch.
- Difficulty sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Declining grades, loss of interest in schoolwork, or not wanting to go to school
- Sudden loss of friends or avoidance of social situations
- Feelings of helplessness or decreased self esteem
- Self-destructive behaviors such as running away from home, harming themselves, or talking about suicide <sup>2</sup>

## What are signs that a child is bullying others?

- Get into physical or verbal fights
- Have friends who bully others
- Are increasingly aggressive
- Get sent to the principal's office or to detention frequently
- Have unexplained extra money or new belongings
- Blame others for their problems
- Don't accept responsibility for their actions
- Are competitive and worry about their reputation or popularity <sup>2</sup>

## Read UNESCO report "Behind the numbers"

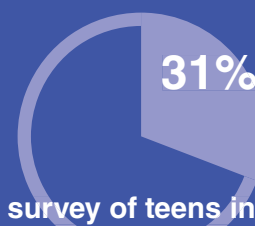
<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/366483eng.pdf>

This publication provides an overview of the most up-to-date evidence on school violence and bullying, including global and regional prevalence and trends, and of evidence from successful national responses to school violence and bullying. It is both significant and innovative because it brings together for the first time in one place a wealth of quantitative data from two large-scale international surveys, the Global School-based Student Health Survey (GSHS) and the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study, which cover 144 countries and territories in all regions of the world, and from a wide range of other global and regional surveys (see Data sources in Chapter 1). To read more, visit the link above.

Globally it was estimated that less than 30% of secondary school pupils will experience cyberbullying.<sup>4</sup>

A study of 40 developing countries showed that an average of 42% of boys and 37% of girls were exposed to bullying.<sup>5</sup>

According to research by an anti-bullying charity, 37% of teenagers who responded said they had been bullied on Facebook.<sup>6</sup>



In a survey of teens in Europe and North America, 31% indicated that they had bullied others (Unicef)

3. 6% of children had had their explicit pictures shared without their permission. 25% had been the subject of online rumors about their sex lives. And 31% had seen people their own age create fake profiles in order to share sexual pictures of a third party. More worrying still, 9% had received sexual threats from people their own age.<sup>7</sup>

Nine out of 10 young people believe bullying is a pervasive problem in their communities.<sup>8</sup>

1 - <https://www.unicef.org/egypt/bullying> 2 - <https://www.stopbullying.gov/at-risk/warning-signs/index.html> 3 - UNICEF Data : Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women, 2017 4 - <https://cyberbullying.org/2019-cyberbullying-data> 5 - World Health Organization, Youth Violence, 2016 <http://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/youth-violence> 6 - <https://www.ditchthelabel.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/The-Annual-Bullying-Survey-2017-1.pdf> 7 - [https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Project\\_deSHAME\\_Dec\\_2017\\_Report.pdf](https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Project_deSHAME_Dec_2017_Report.pdf) 8 - UNICEF, 2016 [https://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_92086.html](https://www.unicef.org/media/media_92086.html) 9 - School Violence and Bullying Global Status Report : UNESCO AND SDGs, 2017 <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002469/246970e.pdf>

130

Worldwide, close to 130 million (slightly more than 1 in 3) students between the ages of 13 and 15 experience bullying.<sup>3</sup>

School Violence and Bullying Global Status Report: UNESCO & SDGs, 2017.<sup>9</sup>

Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030





## General Ideas for Action!

### 1 Teach

your children from an early age the difference between playfulness and bullying and that bullying is unacceptable

### 2 Facilitate

and encourage youth participation in politics and civil societies at both local community and national levels

### 3 Make

youth participation a priority in public policies

### 4 Ensure

that schools have mechanisms for safe and confidential student reporting, intervention, and recovery of victims, as well as rehabilitation of those who have been bullied

### 5 Establish

and promote a violence-free environment and raise awareness against bullying at schools and public spaces. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002469/246970e.pdf>

### 6 Create

a reliable and trustful student reporting systems and helplines so that children feel safe to report bullying in confidentiality

### 7 Set up

toll free child helplines and/or work with existing ones to ensure services are accessible

### 8 Involve

children and youth in advocating for prevention of bullying through interactive theatre, art projects, and the production of guidelines, manuals, and videos <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7oKjW1Oljuw>



### Limit

screen time, and monitor their children's access online, while also ensuring that children are safe online



### Check out

the Child Online Safety Universal Declaration The Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development. [https://www.broadbandcommission.org/Documents/working-groups/ChildOnlineSafety\\_Declaration.pdf](https://www.broadbandcommission.org/Documents/working-groups/ChildOnlineSafety_Declaration.pdf)



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Debate and brainstorm about how to stop bullying
- Build a support network to be a safe place for bullied kids
- Share with your local community and media your bullying prevention ideas
- Learn how to identify bullying behavior of all kinds, effective ways to avoid or stop bullies, how to speak up against bullying, how to be an advocate for those who are being bullied, how to accept coaching and be a coach for others
- If you wouldn't say something to someone's face, you shouldn't say it to them online, through texting, or posting in any other way
- Become a Teen ambassador for STOMP Out Bullying, if you are an Upstander against bullying, have excellent grades, public speaking experience and are a leader in your school or community you could be a Teen ambassador
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Check the Summary on pages <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>



**Cultivate compassion\***, raise awareness of and protection from the virus, promote healthy behaviour in your communities and sharing of correct information to promote prevention, using a variety of online tools and channels. This will include translating vital resources into local languages, using digital technologies, and combating misinformation and xenophobia around the COVID-19 pandemic

**Youth:**  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

## IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Teach children the weight of words, to be mindful of others and demonstrate gentle kindness
- Talk to children and their parents to follow online education for ensuring education continuity
- "Church is a place where you are taught to stop lying, stop beating your younger ones, change your behavior" – Child in Nigeria
- Churches can also introduce examples of the notion of compassion, to help children and youth in difficult situations and learn about collective compassionate action (see pages 67 - 69)



\*Read about "How to create community circles of compassion on pages 67 - 69

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventBullying

# 4 Prevention of Neglect



Updated version 2020

## Definition

According to the **General Comment No. 13** by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, neglect is “the failure to meet children’s physical and psychological needs, protect them from danger, or obtain medical birth registration or other services when those responsible for children’s care have the means, knowledge and access to services to do so.”<sup>1</sup>

## What are the types of Child Neglect?

### Physical neglect includes

failure to protect a child from harm or to provide the child with basic necessities, including adequate food, shelter, clothing and basic medical care.

### Psychological or emotional neglect

can mean lack of any emotional support and love, chronic inattention to the child, and exposure to intimate partner violence, drug or alcohol abuse.

### Educational neglect

is failure to comply with laws requiring caregivers to secure their children’s education through attendance at school or otherwise. Moreover, abandonment is another form of neglect.<sup>2</sup>

### Medical neglect

is the intentional deprivation of the child from healthcare, denying or delaying necessary treatment even though the parents or the caregiver could afford it.

## What are signs of child neglect?

- Clothes are ill-fitting, filthy, or inappropriate for the weather
- Hygiene is consistently bad (unbathed, and unwashed hair, noticeable body odor)

- Untreated illnesses and physical injuries
- Is frequently unsupervised or left alone or allowed to play in unsafe situations
- Is frequently late or missing from school <sup>10</sup>

## Any child can suffer neglect, but some are more at risk such as children who:

- are in care / seeking asylum / live with a parent who has problems with drugs or alcohol / suffers from mental health problems / is in a domestically abusive relationship / living in poverty, unsuitable housing or a deprived area / having parents who were abused or neglected themselves. <sup>11</sup>

<https://www.childhelplineinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Voices-of-Children-2017-2018-FINAL-Spreads.pdf>

## Art. 19 - CRC

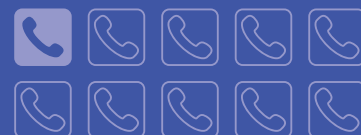
1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.

## Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



1 - Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No.13 – the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence, 2011. 2 - Idem. 3 - <https://voxeu.org/article/potential-impact-covid-19-child-abuse-and-neglect> 4 - <https://www.childhelplineinternational.org/child-helplines/child-helpline-network/> 5 - World Health Organization, Global Summit highlights solutions to end violence against children, calls for accelerated action, February 2018 [http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/) 6 - <https://www.childhelp.org/> 7 - World Health Organization, Child Maltreatment 2017 Infograph. [http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/child/Child\\_maltreatment\\_infographic\\_EN.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/child/Child_maltreatment_infographic_EN.pdf?ua=1) 8 - <https://www.childhelplineinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/2016-2020-Child-Helpline-International-Strategy.pdf> 9 - Child Helpline Data on Abuse and Violence from 2012-2013 – Violence Against Children – Giving a Voice to Children and Young People Worldwide. 10 - <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect.htm/> 11 - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/neglect/who-is-affected-by-neglect/>



Child Helpline Network International.<sup>4</sup>

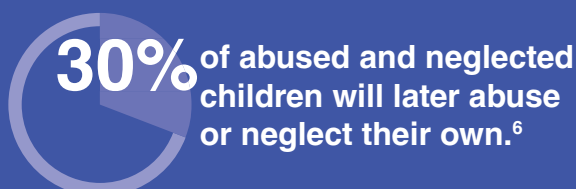
CHILD HELPLINE INTERNATIONAL 2016-2020 STRATEGY.<sup>8</sup>

In 2018, 1 billion children aged 2-17 years – or one in two children – have suffered physical, sexual or emotional violence or neglect.<sup>5</sup>

Children with disabilities are four times more likely to suffer from abuse or neglect.<sup>7</sup>



Boys and girls contact child helplines in equal numbers to talk about neglect (49% vs. 51%).<sup>9</sup>







## General Ideas for Action!

### 1 Lobby

your government to put in place a national action plan and a survey to collect data on child neglect

### 2 Establish

child-friendly information services to identify children at risk

### 3 Increase

public awareness to educate the community about neglect

### 4 Support

efforts to address social problems such as poverty, substance abuse and family violence

### 5 Promote

and encourage parenting education programs and coaching  
<https://www.crin.org/en/library/publications/what-works-tackling-child-abuse-and-neglect-manual-policy-makers-managers-and>

### 6 Suggest

home visiting programs as part of the child protection policy. Home visiting programs involve visits by nurses to parents and infants in their homes to provide support, education, and information

### 7 Organize

social support groups, such as a "circle of parents": self-help groups to share ideas, information and resources, or "Parents Anonymous": led by parents

and professionally trained facilitators to strengthen families, build caring communities, reduce social isolation and develop coping strategies

### 8 Explore the possibility

of community-based alternatives for children to be placed in institutions

### 9 Regularly monitor

and review the placement of children in institutions or alternative care and conduct regular check-ups

### 10 Support

the creation and maintenance of helplines and hotlines to report neglect



### Parental support and stress release measures:

intensive home visiting programs to new mothers have been found to reduce child abuse and neglect (Olds 2007); some of these services could be carried out virtually during the lockdown (Conti et al. 2020). Civil society and organisations supporting children and adolescents can facilitate healthy parenting. In the long-run, resources are needed to support basic mental health and psychosocial services.<sup>3</sup>



### Use

this challenging time to build stronger connections with your children by doing day-to-day activities together at home, speaking with them, and fostering children's ethical reflections and response to care for others. Let us foster children's understanding of their own significance as part of the social fabric and how their actions impact upon others. Our example is the best teacher for our children.



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Find and approach counsellors and child care services closest to you
- If you suspect someone is being neglected offer your support, they probably feel very alone and helpless and could use someone who will just listen to them, it could give them strength in finding a solution to their situation
- If you see an issue of neglect, call a helpline (1 in ten calls to child helplines worldwide concern neglect)
- Understand your rights as a child/young adult
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Check the Summary on pages 79 - 80  
<http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>
- Empower youth leaders to drive social innovation, communities, to change regulations and help to end violence against children and youth

**Youth:**  
15 to 24 years.  
1.2 billion estimated worldwide

## IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- You have a unique opportunity to address the corona virus pandemic and reiterate to your followers the need for PPE (personal protective equipment) to be promoted and used.



### Rational use of personal protective equipment for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and considerations during severe shortages

WHO recommendations for the rational use of personal protective equipment (PPE), in health care and community settings.

[https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/rational-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-for-coronavirus-disease-\(covid-19\)-and-considerations-during-severe-shortages](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/rational-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-for-coronavirus-disease-(covid-19)-and-considerations-during-severe-shortages)

- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to the multi-religious vision of our shared humanity

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventChildNeglect

2020 Call to Action Kit 19 Days of Activism for prevention of violence against children and youth 1-19 November  
 Convener: Women's World Summit Foundation / Children-Youth Section - [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

# Theme 5 Prevention of Child Labor



Updated version 2020

## Definition

The term child labor is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity. Not all work done by children should be classified as child labor (i.e. activities such as helping parents around the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school hours).<sup>7</sup>

## Child labor refers to work that:

- Is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children and interferes with their education
- Deprives them of the opportunity to attend school
- Forces them to leave school prematurely, or
- Requires them to attempt to combine school attendance with heavy work and long hours.

**In its most extreme forms**, child labor involves children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and/or left to fend for themselves on the streets often at a very early age. Whether or not particular forms of “work” can be called “child labor” depends on the child’s age, the type and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed and the laws within individual countries. The answer varies from country to country as well as among sectors within each country.<sup>1</sup>

## Link to ILO Domestic Workers Convention C189

[https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_INSTRUMENT\\_ID:2551460](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:2551460)

“Recognizing the special conditions under which domestic work is carried out that make it desirable to supplement the general standards with standards specific to domestic workers so as to enable them to enjoy their rights fully,”

## Towards the urgent elimination of hazardous child labor

“Children are more vulnerable to risk than adults. Urgent action is needed to ensure no child under the age of 18 is in hazardous child labor.” (ILO)

«**About 73 million children are in hazardous work – almost half of the 152 million children aged 5 to 17 still in child labor.** These children are toiling in mines and fields, factories and homes, exposed to pesticides and other toxic substances, carrying heavy loads or working long hours. Many suffer lifelong physical and psychological consequences. Their very lives can be at risk.”

"The report outlines the crucial and mutual link between education and health: lack of education increases the risk of negative health outcomes from work and conversely, quality education has positive and protective effects on health."

Read more [https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/how-the-ilo-works/ilo-director-general/statements-and-speeches/WCMS\\_632122/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/how-the-ilo-works/ilo-director-general/statements-and-speeches/WCMS_632122/lang--en/index.htm)



"The last two decades have seen significant strides in the fight against child labour. But the COVID-19 pandemic poses very real risks of backtracking.

Positive trends may falter, and child labour may worsen, especially in places where it has remained resistant to change. These risks require urgent action to prevent and mitigate."

Read more <https://globalmarch.org/covid-19-and-child-labour-a-time-of-crisis-a-time-to-act/>

## Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



- 1 Agriculture
- 2 Services
- 3 Industry

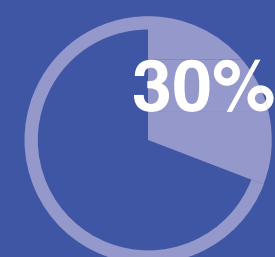
Child labor is concentrated primarily in agriculture (71%), 17% in Services; and 12% in the Industrial sector, including mining.<sup>2</sup>

**168 million** children remain trapped in child labor.<sup>4</sup>

No child under the age of 18 should perform hazardous work as stipulated in the ILO's Conventions on child labour, namely the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No 138).<sup>3</sup>

**173**

countries have ratified the ILO Minimum Age Convention, specifying the minimum age between 14 and 16 years depending on the State's choice.<sup>5</sup>



**30%** Children make up nearly 30% of the world's estimated 50 million to 100 million domestic workers.<sup>6</sup>

1 - <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/lang--en/index.htm> 2 - <https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-day-against-child-labour> 3 - [https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/how-the-ilo-works/ilo-director-general/statements-and-speeches/WCMS\\_632122/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/how-the-ilo-works/ilo-director-general/statements-and-speeches/WCMS_632122/lang--en/index.htm) 4 - <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/chart-globally-168-million-children-remain-trapped-child-labor> 5 - [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:11300:0::NO::P11300\\_INSTRUMENT\\_ID:312283](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:11300:0::NO::P11300_INSTRUMENT_ID:312283) 6 - <http://www.crin.org/en/home/campaigns/hosted-campaigns/domestic-workers-convention> 7 - <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/lang--en/index.htm>



## General Ideas for Action!

### 1 Lobby your government

to mainstream child labor concerns into child-sensitive social security policies (education, healthcare, nutrition) <http://www.ilo.org/ipeclnformationresources/lang--en/index.htm>

### 2 Demand

that employers respect labor standards and that companies commit to a comprehensive code of principles, such as the Ethical Trade Initiative: <http://www.ethicaltrade.org>

### 3 Stop

children from working in dangerous places. We share with you ten tips for helping end child labor: <https://humaneeducation.org/2017/10-tips-for-helping-end-child-labor/>

### 4 Raise

awareness about the dangers of child labor to children's development in your community

### 5 Implement

on the local level the ILO Child Labor Monitoring Scheme file:///Users/menengage/Downloads/ILO-IPEC\_Child\_Labour\_Monitoring\_Guidelines\_EN.pdf

### 6 Cooperate

with local initiatives that aim to stop children from working in dangerous places

### 7 Pressure

your national government to promote free and compulsory education for all children

### 8 Lobby your government

to ensure access to free and compulsory education



### Provide

education and training on safe and healthy work practices, free provision of personal protective equipment and access to public health services. [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms\\_745287.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_745287.pdf)



### Ensure

that short- and medium-term responses are strengthened in the context of the prolonged effects of the crisis towards the attainment of the SDGs and in compliance with international labour standards. This includes support to institutionalised and coordinated social protection measures. [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms\\_745287.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_745287.pdf)



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Commemorate the World Day Against Child Labor on June 12
- Understand and help other children understand their rights (in particular their right to peace and education) and the importance of education
- Organize discussions at home and in schools about child labor
- Follow us on Twitter @youth\_engage
- Help spread awareness on this topic by sharing our hashtags below on social media
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWpmqBmn52hvAXJAZ7IW/view>
- Respect PPE recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19

Youth:  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

## IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Encourage and contribute to community protection activities to help end child labor
- Support children and adolescents in reaching out to decision-makers and the general public so that their views and ideas may be heard and taken into account
- Encourage civil society actors to engage in a constructive dialogue to know and respect the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to the multi-religious vision of our shared humanity



# Theme 6 Prevention of Corporal Punishment

(4 pages)



Updated version 2020

## Definition

The right of children to be protected from corporal punishment is outlined in **Article 19 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child** (see pages 79 - 80) and in the **CRC General Comment N° 8**, which defines corporal or physical punishment as "any punishment in which physical force is used and intended to cause some degree of pain or discomfort, however light."

Most involve hitting (smacking, slapping, spanking) children with the hand or with an implement – whip, stick, belt, shoe, wooden spoon, etc. It can also involve kicking, shaking, throwing, scratching, pinching, biting, pulling hair or boxing ears, forcing children to stay in uncomfortable positions or forced ingestion."

In addition to physical punishment, there are other non-physical forms of punishment that are also cruel and degrading and thus incompatible with the Convention. These include, for example, punishment, which belittles, humiliates, denigrates, scapegoats, threatens, scares or ridicules the child.<sup>1</sup>

« Corporal punishment is not only a violation of children's right to protection from harm – the evidence base continues to grow confirming the serious impact of violent punishment on societies. Children who experience corporal punishment are more likely to display aggression, to engage in peer violence as teenagers, and to grow up to be either perpetrators or victims of intimate partner violence. Vulnerable children such as children with disabilities and displaced children are more likely to experience corporal punishment.

By tackling this form of violence, we can stop intergenerational cycles of violence. Therefore, we are calling on more states to commit to confront this issue, recognising that by doing so they can challenge gender-based violence and wider forms of violence in society. Ending corporal punishment of children is truly a critical factor in achieving sustainable development, and we need to see it prioritised now that we have just one decade left to meet the objectives in the Sustainable Development Goals.

It will take a global movement of actors to see corporal punishment fully eliminated. For 2020, the Global Initiative has committed to building our supporter movement so that it is even bigger, spans more of the world, and is yet more active. We have started this process with a multi-lingual website to ensure our information and resources reach a wider range of activists, and extend the momentum for change as far as we can. »<sup>3</sup>

## Excerpts from Global report 2019 Progress towards ending corporal punishment of children



Parents are in need of particular support during this time of isolation, to help reduce stress and maintain positive relationships with each other and their children.

Read more: <https://endcorporalpunishment.org/protecting-children-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

1 - <http://www.refworld.org/docid/460bc7772.html>. 2 - <https://2018.justicewithchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/TRIONA-LE-NIHAN-PRESENTATION-29.05.18-ROOM-VII.pdf> 3 - <http://endcorporalpunishment.org/wp-content/uploads/global/Global-report-2019.pdf>. 4 - Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, 2017 <http://endcorporalpunishment.org/wp-content/uploads/global/Global-report-2017-singles.pdf> 5 - UNICEF : Monitoring the situation of Children and Women, 2017 <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/violence/violent-discipline/>

In **34** states,

corporal punishment - whipping, flogging, caning - is still lawful under state, traditional and/or religious law as a sentence for crimes committed by juveniles:  
Afghanistan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Colombia, Dominica, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kiribati, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Somalia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, State of Palestine, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, UR Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zimbabwe <sup>2</sup>

Stay up-to-date on all developments concerning Covid-19  
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

**130** States have prohibited corporal punishment in all schools.<sup>4</sup>

Close to 300 million children aged 2 to 4 world-wide (3 out of 4) experience violent discipline by their caregivers on a regular basis<sup>5</sup>

Relevant Sustainable Development Goal by 2030



# 6 Prevention of Corporal Punishment

cont'd.



**Working towards universal prohibition of corporal punishment** - *A special report for the High Level Global Conference held by H.E. The President of Malta 2018*

**We recommend that you familiarize yourself with this excellent Report, which gives the latest information and statistics about the issue.**

<http://endcorporalpunishment.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Special-report-Malta-spreads.pdf>

**“The objective of the High Level Global Conference on the Universal Prohibition of Corporal Punishment held in Malta on the 30 May–1 June 2018** is to continue securing support and strive towards a world without corporal punishment and violence against children.

The conference included keynote addresses, panel and roundtable discussions with the participation of leading experts in the field. Participants had the opportunity to share their insight and meet other stakeholders committed to ending corporal punishment globally.

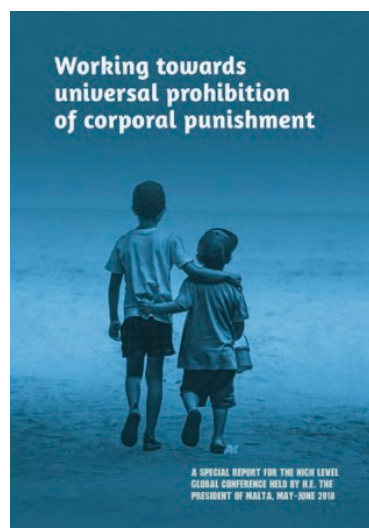
The President’s Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society was established in 2014 by Her Excellency the President of Malta, Marie Louise Coleiro Preca. The Foundation recognises relationships as the fundamental structure nurturing human existence and aims to produce relevant, appropriate and timely research by seeking innovative methodologies to engage with society for the promotion of peace and unity. [paws.org.mt](http://paws.org.mt)

## The UN 2030 Agenda: a global commitment to end violence against children

"Under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015, states have committed to building peaceful, non-violent societies in which human rights are respected. The agenda sets out 17 goals, clear targets for achieving each goal and indicators to monitor progress towards each target.

Corporal punishment is the most common form of violence experienced by children worldwide. In extreme cases, it can lead to injury and even death, but overwhelming evidence shows even so-called “light” corporal punishment is associated with a variety of negative outcomes including poorer mental health, cognitive development and educational outcomes, as well as increased aggression and antisocial behaviour.

It has also been linked to increased approval and use of other forms of violence and criminal behaviour in later life, including corporal punishment and intimate partner violence. The long-term effects of violence in families and society – while they are felt by all – can disproportionately affect low- and middle-income countries, where its impact can be severe in terms of slowing economic growth, undermining personal and collective security, and impeding social development."



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Ending corporal punishment is therefore key to ending all violence against children (target 16.2) and reducing violence across the whole of society in the longer term. It is also essential in working towards other SDG targets, including those related to health, education, violence against women and girls, equality and economic growth.

Prohibition of corporal punishment in law is the essential foundation for reducing its use, which must be implemented effectively, including through societywide measures to raise awareness of the new law and children’s right to protection."

The process of transforming society’s behaviour in childrearing and education, and its view of children – to seeing them as full holders of human rights who cannot be hit and hurt in the guise of “discipline” – takes time. If states are to achieve substantial reductions in the prevalence of violent punishment by 2030 (indicator 16.2.1), they must reform national legislation and work to make prohibition of all corporal punishment of children a reality NOW!"

**"Corporal punishment is the most common form of violence experienced by children worldwide.**

In extreme cases, it can lead to injury and even death, but overwhelming evidence shows even so-called “light” corporal punishment is associated with a variety of negative outcomes including poorer mental health,

# 6 Prevention of Corporal Punishment cont'd.



## What religious communities can do towards ending corporal punishment of children

(taken from the special conference Report) <http://endcorporalpunishment.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Special-report-Malta-spreads.pdf>

- Model and promote positive, non-violent parenting.
- Explain why the legality and practice of corporal punishment are incompatible with universal values of compassion, equality, justice, equity and non-violence.
- Place children at the heart of the community. Enable the meaningful participation of children and make provision for their voices and opinions to be heard.
- Hold vigils and events dedicated to ending legalised violence against children.
- Promote the meaning of “discipline” as teaching and guidance, not as physical punishment; offer support and resources for parents
- Speak out about the harmful effects of corporal punishment
- Ensure religious texts, scriptures, teachings and traditional ceremonies and practices are used to promote respect for children – not to condone or perpetrate violence against children
- Use opportunities in the life of the religious community such as marriage preparation and the birth of a baby, to highlight the dangers of corporal punishment and promote positive non-violent parenting.
- Link the issue of corporal punishment and the urgent need to prohibit it with campaigns to end violence against women and girls.
- Identify child protection risks in the religious community; ensure accountability and reporting mechanisms are in place.
- Ensure child protection and safeguarding policies explicitly denounce corporal punishment.
- Encourage the religious community to actively support law reform at [www.endcorporalpunishment.org](http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org).
- Work with others, including governments, NGOs and interfaith councils towards prohibition and elimination of all corporal punishment of children. *For further information and resources, see [www.churchesfornon-violence.org](http://www.churchesfornon-violence.org)*

## Making non-violent childhoods a reality

The ultimate goal of prohibiting corporal punishment is to ensure that no child ever experiences it, by eliminating its use completely. Legal prohibition sends a clear message that hitting and hurting a child, for whatever reason, is wrong, just as hitting and hurting adults is wrong. But implementing the law is not only about responding to adults who violently punish children – it is primarily about transforming attitudes and practice so that physical punishment is no longer seen as acceptable, enabling a shift in social norms towards positive, non-violent childrearing methods.

## Preliminary list of measures to accompany

**prohibition** (taken from the special conference Report) <http://endcorporalpunishment.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Special-report-Malta-spreads.pdf>

- Wide dissemination and explanation of the law and its implications
- Detailed guidance, for all involved, on how the law should be implemented in the best interests of children
- Communication of children's right to protection from corporal punishment and all other cruel or degrading forms of punishment to children and adults
- Dissemination of information on the dangers of corporal punishment
- Promotion of positive, non-violent forms of discipline to the public, children, parents, other carers, teachers, etc.
- Integration of implementation/enforcement of the prohibition into the national and local child protection systems
- Identification of key public figures and a wide range of partners who can support implementation of the law and transformation of attitudes
- Attraction of necessary resources
- Evaluation of the impact of law reform and other measures, through a baseline survey and regular follow-up surveys, interviewing children and parents
- Possible points for communicating key messages
- Birth registration
- Pre- and post-natal services
- All other health service and health practitioner contacts with parents, future parents and children
- Pre-school entry, school entry, school curriculum and informal educational settings
- Social and welfare services in contact with children (including children in all non-family settings) and with families
- Initial and in-service training of all those working with and for families and children, including teachers, care workers, etc.
- Elements of civil society in contact with children and families, including religious/ faith groups
- Mass media, internet, social networking, etc.

**«Violence is not a private matter that should be left to families to resolve, but a matter of human rights that states have a duty to uphold.»**





## General Ideas for Action!

### 1 Identify and analyze

the factors that contribute to the use of corporal punishment and the obstacles that need to be overcome to prohibit and eliminate it

### 2 Distribute, teach, and create

awareness about key documents, recommendations, and human rights treaties highlighting the rights of the child to be protected from corporal punishment, and translate them into local languages

### 3 Lobby

your government to promote a rights-based approach to prohibition, and to ensure that legislation is in place to ban corporal punishment in the home, schools, penal institutions, and all settings. Where legislation is in place, ensure its effective implementation

### 4 Promote and develop

within the community courses on alternative forms of discipline and nonviolent communication

### 5 Include training

on positive discipline methods in teacher curricula and address the causes of violent behavior of teachers and students

### 6 Convene

public debates to challenge myths/norms

### 7 Incorporate

in the school curriculum children's rights training and conflict resolution skills

### 8 Create

awareness about the harmful effects of corporal punishment on children

### 9 Urge

governments to commemorate the 19 November « World Day for the prevention of Violence against Children and Youth » and include the SDG target #16.2



### Place

children at the heart of the community. Enable the meaningful participation of children and make provision for their voices and opinions to be heard



### CHILD PROTECTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CORONAVIRUS

[https://alliancecpha.org/en/system/tdf/library/attachments/covid-19\\_technical\\_note\\_summary\\_5.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=37577](https://alliancecpha.org/en/system/tdf/library/attachments/covid-19_technical_note_summary_5.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=37577)



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Break the Silence against Childhood violence Video <https://vimeo.com/235105991>
- Communicate and contact your local helpline in case your friend, sibling, or classmate face corporal punishment <https://www.childhelplineinternational.org/child-helplines/child-helpline-network/>
- Request that all incidents of violence in schools are reported
- Learn about your right and how to challenge corporal punishment
- Help spread awareness on this topic by sharing our hashtags below on social media
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWpmqBmn52hvAXJAZ7IW/view>
- Become a trained community volunteer to help identify suspected cases of COVID-19

**Youth:**  
15 to 24 years.  
1.2 billion estimated worldwide

## IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

### Declaration of Role of Religion and Religious Leaders in confronting corporal punishment of children (2011):

Para. 1: " We invite: (1) All religious leaders and their followers to make efforts, based on religious teachings, to: Utilise their capabilities to build the culture of respecting children's dignity and the principle of the best interests of the child, and to confront violence against children, particularly violence in the form of corporal punishment in the home and educational settings..."

<https://iliflc.com/resources/declaration-qom-iran-2011-the-role-of-religions-and-religious-leaders-in-confronting-corporal-punishment-of-children-in-the-family-and-educational-settings/>

- Promote the meaning of "discipline" as guidance, not as physical punishment; offer support and resources for parents
- Create Circles of Compassion, see pages 67 - 68

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventCorporalPunishment

# 7 Prevention of the Sale of Children



Updated version 2020

## Definition

The sale of children refers to any transaction whereby a child is transferred from one person or group to another for remuneration or any other consideration, according to Article 2 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC). A child can be sold for multiple purposes: sexual exploitation, child labor, organ trafficking, illegal adoption, child marriage, and more.<sup>1</sup>

**Article 3.1 (a), of the OPSC requires that States criminalize the sale of children**, in particular, the offering, delivering or accepting of a child for the purpose of sexual exploitation, transfer of organs or the engagement of a child in forced labor, and improperly inducing consent for the illegal adoption of a child.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>



**Mama Fatima Singhatheh, the newly elected Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, said between 42 million and 66 million**

**children worldwide are already in a precarious socio-economic situation, even before the hidden impact of the COVID-19 crisis emerges.**

“The damage to millions of children will be devastating if we are slow in mobilising child protection services for early detection and prevention,” Singhatheh said.

“A comprehensive mapping and rapid and responsive child protection measures are paramount to assess the magnitude of this crisis on the most vulnerable children, including those who are refugees, displaced, homeless, migrants, minorities, slum-dwellers, living with disabilities, living on the streets, living in refugee settlements, and in institutions,” she said.

The independent expert said COVID-19 travel restrictions had spawned new forms of child sexual exploitation and abuse, including attempts to establish a “delivery” or “drive-thru” service for sexual exploitation of children.

“There has also been a spike in the number of attempts to access illegal websites featuring child sexual abuse material. Producing and accessing child sexual abuse material and live-stream child sexual abuse online has now become an easy alternative to groom and lure children into sexual activities and to trade images in online communities,” Singhatheh said.

The COVID-19 pandemic will leave those already left behind trailing even further behind. “Our commitments made under Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to leave no one behind is now more relevant than ever.”

To read more:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25865&LangID=E>

## Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



## Definition of Surrogacy

Refers to a form of « third party » reproductive practice in which the intending parent(s) and the surrogate mother agree that the surrogate mother will become pregnant, gestate, and give birth to a child... »<sup>4</sup>



Exploitative practises in the context of commercial surrogacy arrangements commodifying children can amount to sale of children.<sup>2</sup>

Illegal adoptions violate multiple child rights norms and principles, including the best interests of the child, the principle of subsidiarity and the prohibition of improper financial gain. These principles are breached when the purpose of an adoption is to find a child for adoptive parents rather than a family for the child.<sup>3</sup>



Child marriage can be regarded as a form of the sale of children.

The dowry requirement can provide an incentive for parents to arrange their daughters to marry, and child marriage can be used to settle debts and provide economic security to families. 40 per cent of girls are married before age 18, and 12 per cent of girls are married before age 15.<sup>5</sup>

1 - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/opscrc.aspx> 2 - <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CRC/OPSC-Guidelines-Explanatory-Report-ECPAT-International-2019.pdf> 3 - <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/Illegaladoptions.aspx> 4 - <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/Surrogacy.aspx> 5 - UNFPA, Child Marriage, 2018 <https://www.unfpa.org/child-marriage>

**Although many States have laws prohibiting the trafficking of children, very few have laws regarding the sale of children. The two abuses are distinct, and according to the CRC, States should implement measures to prevent both.**

# 7 Prevention of the Sale of Children cont'd.



## General Ideas for Action!

### 1 Intervene

in schools to explain and circulate the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC)

### 2 Support

the strengthening of parenting programs and parental capacities

### 3 Train

disaster response personnel and aid agencies to take care of children and minimize the risk of children being separated from their families

### 4 Lobby your government to:

- Ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography if it has not already done so. If your government is Party to the Protocol, lobby for full implementation

- Ratify the Hague Adoption Convention and ensure that national adoption policies take into account the best interests of the child and protect against illegal adoption [http://www.hcch.net/upload/adoguide\\_e.pdf](http://www.hcch.net/upload/adoguide_e.pdf)

- Implement civil registration of births, deaths, and marriages of children

- 15 countries have taken no action nor have they ratified the protocol. <http://indicators.ohchr.org/>

### 5 Create

a local coalition with various stakeholders to devise strategies to prevent child trafficking Resource: Training Manual to Fight Trafficking in Children for labor, sexual and other forms of exploitation, ILO, UNICEF and UNGIFT [http://www.ilo.org/ipec/areas/Traffickingofchildren/WCMS\\_111537/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/ipec/areas/Traffickingofchildren/WCMS_111537/lang-en/index.htm)

### 6 Take steps

to prevent and end child early and forced marriage, which are considered forms of sale of children <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage-theory-of-change/>



#### The UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on children

[https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/160420\\_Covid\\_Children\\_Policy\\_Brief.pdf](https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/160420_Covid_Children_Policy_Brief.pdf)



#### Mobilize

child protection services for early detection and protection of the virus



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Learn about your right to dignity <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>
- Explore the way how the problem of the sale of children manifests in your local community.
- Learn about your rights and about this theme and become a Human Rights Defender: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/Defender.aspx>
- Help spread awareness on this topic by sharing our hashtags below on social media
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWpmqBmn52hvAXJAZ7IW/view>
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>
- Adolescents have a powerful role to play in engendering the spirit as many are already demonstrating throughout the world—whether through volunteering their help within communities, or combating stigma, xenophobia and discrimination online.

**Youth:**  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

## IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

"More solidarity: The **COVID-19 pandemic** is a test of our solidarity: within local communities, the scientific research community, faith-based communities and the community of nations. Children offer a common cause that can stoke a greater sense of unity among people. [https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/160420\\_Covid\\_Children\\_Policy\\_Brief.pdf](https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/160420_Covid_Children_Policy_Brief.pdf)

- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to the multi-religious vision of our shared humanity



#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #NotForSale



# 8 Prevention of Child Prostitution



Updated version 2020

## Definition

The United Nations defines it as «the act of engaging or offering the services of a child to perform sexual acts for money or other consideration with that person or any other person».

**Article 2 (b) of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC)** defines child prostitution as “the use of a child in sexual activities for remuneration or any other form of compensation.” Remuneration can be financial but could include other forms of payment, such as in kind-benefits, accommodation, or drugs.

**Article 3. 1 (b)** of the OPSC requires that States criminalize the offering, obtaining, procuring or providing a child for child prostitution, which covers most of the supply aspects of child prostitution.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>

**Recommendations from the Report of the former Special Rapporteur on sale and sexual exploitation of children, Ms. Maud de Boer-Buquicchio.**

## Excerpts from her report:

**"114.** (...) She calls on States to accelerate efforts towards achieving comprehensive, rights-based and child-centred protection systems, support and promote a coordinated global response to eradicate the sale and sexual exploitation of children, and strengthen the mandate of the Special Rapporteur in order to ensure proper monitoring and follow-up to the recommendations, including the possibility of providing the necessary technical assistance, if requested, particularly in the framework of country visits.

**115.** The Special Rapporteur urges States to put in place comprehensive legal frameworks to prevent, prohibit and protect children from all forms of offline and online manifestations of the

sale and sexual exploitation, including by:

- (a)** Accelerating efforts to achieve the universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto;
- (b)** Criminalizing all forms of the sale and sexual exploitation of children as separate crimes, distinct from trafficking, incorporating into national legislation the full definitions of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography contained in the Optional Protocol and in line with the guidelines regarding the implementation of the Optional Protocol;
- (c)** Addressing impunity as a matter of priority through the development of child-friendly justice systems to encourage and enable children to seek justice and reparation;
- (d)** Improving the technical capacity of law enforcement agencies, child protection professionals and the justice system to effectively detect, investigate, prosecute and sanction the constantly evolving manifestations of these crimes;
- (e)** Designing evidence-based and prevention-focused measures that take into account root causes and underlying factors, including demand;
- (f)** Implementing social protection policies and family-strengthening programmes;
- (g)** Expanding bilateral, regional and international agreements and partnerships with countries of origin, transit and destination to prevent and combat the sale and sexual exploitation of children;
- (h)** Ensuring respect for human rights in the private sector, including Internet service providers, the telecommunications industry, the tourism and travel industry, the media and financial institutions; (...)"

**For the complete list of her recommendations, visit <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/43/40>**

**Child prostitution is closely linked to other types of sexual exploitation, see our campaign themes 7, 9, 10, 11 and 18.**

*Although no reliable data is available on the extent of the phenomenon globally, studies indicate that it exists in all environments, including in developed countries, and across various socioeconomic levels.*

Child sex tourism is a critical part of child prostitution, and the demand side must be addressed at all levels.<sup>2</sup>

**It is believed that nearly 80% of all trafficking worldwide is for sexual exploitation, with over 20% of the victims being children.<sup>2</sup>**

**80%**

**It is important to be clear that children are not prostitutes, but victims of crime and victims of sexual abuse.**

1 - US Department of State, The 2014 Trafficking in Persons Report (TIPReport). <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/226844.pdf> 2 - <http://www.ecpat.net/what-we-do> 3 - [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/publication/wcms\\_575479.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_575479.pdf)

**Children represent 21% of the victims of commercial sexual exploitation.<sup>3</sup>**

Poverty is a factor of heightening the risk of children being used for sexual exploitation. (UNICEF)



**Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030**



**1 Lobby**

your government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography if it has not already done so. If it has, lobby for full implementation

**2 Initiate**

multi-stakeholder dialogues to assess the status of child prostitution in your country and devise multi-sectorial prevention plans

**3 Intervene**

in schools to explain and circulate the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography - create a debate among children, parents and teachers

**4 Understand**

survivors as victims, not offenders

**5 Partner**

with public agencies to provide support and services to survivors

**6 Create**

a comprehensive, locally based, multidisciplinary anti-trafficking task force in your community, including schools, service providers, health care sector, juvenile justice, law enforcement etc. Good practice guidance

**7 Involve**

children & youth in advocating for their rights and protection (theater, art, child-friendly media, production of manuals, guidelines, etc.)

**Use**

and disseminate only official information about the Pandemic provided by government sites or the World Health Organization website.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Speak out and reach out to your community in case anyone approached you to take part in any form of child prostitution
- Understand and learn about how to become a Children Rights Defender (Youth who take actions to defend their own rights or those of others)
- Start a debate about the demand side of child prostitution, and explore the way the problem manifests itself in your local and national context
- Help spread awareness on this topic by sharing our hashtags below on social media
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWpmqBmn52hvAXJAZ7IW/view>

Become a trained community volunteer to help identify suspected cases of COVID-19

Youth:  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED  
LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Religious leaders have a unique opportunity to firmly condemn all forms of child prostitution
- The **SDG target #16.2** could be used to remind your congregation that all governments have agreed in 2015 "to End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children by 2030" <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16>
- Encourage congregations to use innovative approaches, which encourage children to share their views, ideas and concerns ([www.oikoumene.org/resources-children](http://www.oikoumene.org/resources-children) for example)
- Recognizing that children and adolescents who feel safe, valued and inspired by their churches will reach out to their peers and promote their participation to raise awareness, to help leverage the potential of children and adolescents as effective advocates in their communities and actors of change by planning and carrying out targeted outreach activities

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #childProstitution

2020 Call to Action Kit 19 Days of Activism for prevention of violence against children and youth 1-19 November  
Convener: Women's World Summit Foundation / Children-Youth Section - [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

# 9 Prevention of CSAM

## (Child Sexual Abuse Material)



Updated version 2020

### Definition

**Article 2 of the Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC)**, refers to any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for sexual purposes.

Link to the OPSC: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>

**Article 3.1(c), of the Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography (OPSC)** requires States to criminalize producing, distributing, disseminating, importing, exporting, offering, selling or possessing child pornography. The prevention of child pornography involves both strong legislation, full implementation by government at all levels, coordinated community action, a locally contextualized plan of action based on facts on the ground, and a concerted focus on the demand side. **Civil society has a key role to play in demanding that child pornography be prosecuted.**

Link to the OPSC: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>

### New technologies have changed the way child pornography is created and traded

"On the Internet, collections of child abuse material can contain millions of files, which are being shared increasingly on peer-to-peer networks instead of the web in order to evade filtering and detection software. Additionally, the Internet allows anonymous payment methods, which make it difficult to trace the purchaser of child pornography.

The former Special Rapporteur on sale and sexual exploitation of children, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, shared about her report to Member States at the UN's top rights forum on 3 March 2020, that "Child sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and the use of children in prostitution are a reality in all parts of the world".

She warned that while the growth of the internet had benefited people's lives in many ways, it has also offered "secrecy, anonymity and opacity" to perpetrators who often act "with utter impunity".

"Children continue to be sold and trafficked within their own countries and across borders for the purposes of sexual exploitation," the UN Special Rapporteur on sale and sexual exploitation of children warned.

Children are coerced into participation in pornographic performances online. Young girls and boys are lured with false promises and coerced into sex trade, domestic servitude, forced labour, begging and forced marriage."

The Special Rapporteur also noted that some States continue to prosecute children who are forced to carry out sex acts online. This is despite clear guidance from child rights experts that children are victims and should never be criminalized."

Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1058501>

### Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



While "child pornography" remains the legal term for this material, the subject matter is one of the most violent, horrific forms of child abuse possible. For this reason, those working to combat this type of abuse have begun using the term "child sexual abuse material" (CSAM), which more accurately conveys the content and is explicitly tied to the source of the problem.<sup>1</sup>

The Philippines has become the world's largest known source of online child sexual exploitation, with endemic poverty helping drive a surge in abuse, a report said Thursday.

Parents and relatives were responsible for facilitating the abuse in nearly all cases, according to the International Justice Mission aid group's seven-year study.<sup>3</sup>

1 - <https://www.thorn.org/child-pornography-and-abuse-statistics/> 2 - <https://www.iwf.org.uk/report/iwf-2019-annual-report-zero-tolerance> 3 - <https://www.thejakartapost.com/seasia/2020/05/21/philippines-tops-world-for-online-child-sex-abuse-study.html> 4 - UNICEF STUDY, 2016, [https://www.unicef.org/philippines/media\\_25534.html#.WvP2mS\\_bnWc](https://www.unicef.org/philippines/media_25534.html#.WvP2mS_bnWc)

Globally there are around 75,000 child predators online.<sup>4</sup>

In 2019, almost 9 in 10 (89%) known URLs containing child sexual abuse material were hosted in Europe. This compares to 8 in 10 (79%) in 2018.<sup>2</sup>





## General Ideas for Action!

- 1 Educate**  
children about the risks associated with the Internet and other technology to prevent and combat child pornography
- 2 Encourage**  
schools to explain and circulate the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography; create a debate among children, parents and teachers
- 3 Conduct**  
awareness-raising sessions with teachers, parents, NGOs, and government representatives to discuss risks for child pornography and protective factors such as installing filtering tools, etc.
- 4 Encourage**  
Internet service providers, mobile phone companies, Internet cafes and other relevant actors to develop and implement Codes of Conduct and self-regulation measures that address prevention and protection from child pornography
- 5 Promote**  
and raise awareness about Child Helplines in your country :<https://www.childhelplineinternational.org/child-helplines/child-helpline-network/>
- 6 Set up**  
toll free helplines providing children with information and confidential support
- 7 Lobby**  
your government to criminalize all aspects of child pornography and to ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography if it has not already done so. If your government has ratified, lobby for full implementation of the plan of action
- 8 Take action**  
and report any form of child pornography :  
[www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk) / [www.inhope.org](http://www.inhope.org) / [www.cybertipline.org](http://www.cybertipline.org)



### Use

and disseminate only official information about the Pandemic provided by government sites or the World Health Organization website.  
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Learn about your right to dignity.  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>
- Speak out and reach out to your community in case anyone approached you to take part in any form of child pornography
- Learn about how to become a Children Rights Defender (Youth who take actions to defend their own rights or those of others)
- Start a debate about the demand side for child pornography
- Help spread awareness on this topic by sharing our hashtags below on social media
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWpmqBmn52hvAXJAZ71W/view>
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child,  
<http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>
- Become a trained community volunteer to help identify suspected cases of COVID-19

**Youth:**  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

## IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Religious leaders have a unique opportunity to firmly condemn all forms of child pornography
- The SDG target #16.2 could be used to remind your members that all governments have agreed in 2015 "to End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children by 2030" <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16>
- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to the multi-religious vision of our shared humanity
- Promote the creation of community Circles to find solution to child pornography (see page s67 -68)

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #CSAM

# Theme 10

## Prevention of Child Trafficking



Updated version 2020

### Definition

A child has been trafficked if he or she has been moved within a country, or across borders, whether by force or not, with the purpose of exploiting the child (UNICEF).

The International Labor Organization (ILO) notes that trafficking children is closely related to the demand for cheap labor to work in conditions and with treatment that violates human rights. The ILO reports that girls are trafficked in particular for sexual exploitation and domestic labor, while boys are often trafficked for agricultural work, mining, and armed conflict.<sup>1</sup>

Child trafficking can occur when children are abducted, or kidnapped, from the streets, sold into sexual slavery and forced into marriage by relatives, or in any place where traffickers, pimps and recruiters prey upon a child's vulnerabilities. Children are often trafficked, employed and exploited because compared with adults they are more vulnerable, cheaper to hire and are less likely to demand higher wages or better working conditions.

Refugee, migrant and displaced children are especially vulnerable to trafficking. Whether they are escaping war and violence or in search of opportunities, many children lack pathways to move regularly and safely.

Article 9 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) calls on State Parties «to ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will». In many countries, child abduction rings are in operation, and children are abducted to be sold into forced labor or forced begging, to be recruited into armed forces or drug smuggling gangs, to be sold into illegal adoption, to be trafficked for sexual exploitation, or to be forced into marriage.

### The COVID-19 Position paper

"The impact and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on trafficked and exploited persons" by the Special Rapporteur, Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, on trafficking in persons, especially women and children



Child trafficking is closely linked to other types of exploitation, see our 19 Days themes 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 18.



### Excerpts from her Covid-19 position paper: Background and objectives

The COVID-19 crisis has a potentially far-reaching, long-term negative impact on trafficked and exploited persons. Although at this stage it is not yet possible to assess the full impact of the pandemic on human trafficking, it is sure that its socio-economic consequences are already making precarious and marginalized people more vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation.

The policies and measures adopted in the wake of the pandemic will be crucial in the unfolding crisis and will also shape how the labour market and, in general, societies will look like into the future.

This paper aims at analyzing how it's socio-economic consequences of the pandemic will exacerbate the vulnerabilities to trafficking, posing a further threat not only to actual victims, but also to people at risk of being trafficked.

Read more: <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Trafficking/COVID-19-Impact-trafficking.pdf>

"Human trafficking is the result of the failure of our societies and economies to protect the most vulnerable." <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/05/1063342>

2020 Trafficking in Persons Report calls upon governments to step up action to bring an end to extra-territorial child sexual exploitation and abuse.<sup>9</sup>

Human trafficking and sexual exploitation endanger the welfare of the individual, the family and the community. Accepting such exploitation as inevitable is inconsistent with a human rights vision.<sup>2</sup>

Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world, a business of more than \$150 billion annually - attracting criminals to exploiting women and girls.<sup>4</sup>

"We recognize that adults and children who have been trafficked or sexually exploited should be treated as victims of a crime, not as criminals themselves."<sup>3</sup>

54% of the millions of victims are sold and abused for sexual exploitation by buyers, pimps and traffickers for financial gain.<sup>6</sup>

1 - ILO, Combatting trafficking in children for labor exploitation: A resource kit for policy makers and. 2 - <https://www.worldwithoutexploitation.org/> 3 - <https://www.worldwithoutexploitation.org/> 4 - [https://www.equalitynow.org/what\\_is\\_sex\\_trafficking\\_intro](https://www.equalitynow.org/what_is_sex_trafficking_intro) 5 - <https://www.equalitynow.org/trafficking> 6 - [https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/equalitynow/pages/266/attachments/original/1527182554/Equality\\_Now\\_Sex\\_Trafficking\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf?1527182554](https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/equalitynow/pages/266/attachments/original/1527182554/Equality_Now_Sex_Trafficking_Fact_Sheet.pdf?1527182554) 7 - <https://www.worldwithoutexploitation.org/> 8 - <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/children-account-nearly-one-third-identified-trafficking-victims-globally> 9 - <https://www.protectingchildrenintourism.org/2020-trafficking-in-persons-report-calls-upon-governments-to-step-up-action-to-bring-an-end-to-extra-territorial-child-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/>

Children make up almost 1/3 of all human trafficking victims worldwide.<sup>8</sup>

94% of trafficking victims are women and girls.<sup>5</sup>

"We understand that we won't end sexual exploitation until we end the demand for prostitution. As long as there is a global sex trade, ours will be an unsafe, unjust world."<sup>7</sup>

Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



#16.2

## General Ideas for Action!

- 1 Learn**  
about the situation of child trafficking in your country in order to tailor responses to local, national and regional specifics
- 2 Create**  
a local coalition with various stakeholders to devise strategies to prevent child trafficking  
Training Manual to Fight Trafficking in Children for labor, sexual and other forms of exploitation, ILO, UNICEF and UNGIFT <http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/download.do?type=document&id=14616>
- 3 Raise awareness**  
about the warning signs of child trafficking to help the community identify and support children at risk
- 4 Research**  
where the source and destination points for trafficking are in your region, and empower local communities at source and destination points to understand what creates vulnerability to trafficking and determine context specific action
- 5 Ensure**  
that adequate services are available for children that suffer abuse at home and raise awareness about such services. Children experiencing violence at home are more likely to run away and at a higher risk of being trafficked
- 6 Provide**  
recovery and rehabilitation programs and offer emergency and long-term support for all children who have been trafficked and/or subject to commercial sexual abuse [www.savethechildren.net](http://www.savethechildren.net)
- 7 Lobby your government to:**
  - Ensure access to basic social services, such as education, vocational and life-skills training, health care, and birth registration. These are all key elements to preventing trafficking
  - Take steps to address child trafficking both nationally and globally and penalize adults responsible for it with prison sentences



### Encourage

schools to create thoughtful, well-informed campaigns to inform youth about sex and labor trafficking.



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Learn about how to become a Children Rights Defender (Youth who take actions to defend their own rights or those of others)
- Find an anti-trafficking organization and volunteer or donate to it
- Grass-roots YOUTH action can make a difference in helping to change many of the abuse situations described in the Kit
- Engage in a public campaign to inform about the root causes, different methods of traffickers and available resources and hotlines
- Mark the Intl. Missing Children Day 25 May with public events, activities and projects aiming at raising awareness among your peers
- Request that your school presents the Global Education Tool « Learning to live together » <https://ethicseducationforchildren.org/en/>
- Understand how traffickers use social media. Teach others, and pledge to share credible information on your social media channels

**Youth:**  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

## IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Mark the "International Missing Children Day-25 May" with activities and projects aiming at raising awareness among congregations
- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to the multi-religious vision of our shared humanity
- Create Circles of Compassion in your congregation and share the 19 Days of Activism Campaign



Read about "How to create community circles of compassion on p. 67 - 68



# 11 Prevention of Child Sex Tourism



Updated version 2020

## Definition

**Child Sex Tourism (CST)** is "the sexual exploitation of children by a person or persons who travel from their home district, home geographical region, or home country in order to have sexual contact with children." Child sex tourists can be both domestic travellers and international tourists. Child sex tourism involves the exchange of cash, clothes, food or some other form of consideration to a child or to a third party for sexual contact.<sup>1</sup>

Victims of CST are often:

- Caught in poverty, from minority groups, dependent on seasonal economies
- Working children
- Children living on the street
- Children abused or neglected in the home
- AIDS orphans<sup>2</sup>

Child victims have no single story and come from a wide range of backgrounds. Therefore, the « one-size fits all » approaches cannot hope to protect children against sex tourism. Given that there is no typical victim, prevention and response measures must be tailored to the specific situations if they are to be effective. There must also be adequate resources to provide skilled care for child victims of sex tourism.

## GLOBAL STUDY ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM 2016

<https://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Offenders-on-the-move-Global-Study-on-the-Sexual-Exploitation-of-Children-in-Travel-and-Tourism.pdf>

Child sex tourism is one of the most detrimental threats to the mental and physical health of youth. Most violated children experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, suicide attempts, low self-esteem, and eating disorders, among other consequences. Children as young as six years old have contracted sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS;

have endured severe physical abuse; have had pregnancy-related illnesses; and can experience developmental delays. Other consequences of child sex tourism include a child's lack of education, poor nutrition, and social isolation as well as participation in criminal activity and/or substance abuse.

## ECPAT report indicates growth of child-sex tourism

"The growth of the internet, cloud computing and advanced encryption are contributing to the growing problem of child-sex tourism, according to a new study. Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam are the latest target destinations."

Link to the Report:

<https://www.dw.com/en/ecpat-report-indicates-growth-of-child-sex-tourism/a-19254937>



**"As the world responds to COVID-19, we see that push factors that facilitate or lead to sexual exploitation of children are expected to intensify. According to**

ECPAT members across the world, restrictions imposed by governments worldwide to curb the virus heavily impact on children. Today, ECPAT is present in 102 countries, through 118 members.<sup>6</sup>

The current COVID-19 crisis and restrictions are affecting the modus operandi of child sex offenders. No country or child is immune to this ever-growing risk.

**As the world responds to COVID-19, push factors that facilitate or lead to sexual abuse and exploitation of children are expected to intensify. All partners need to address the rapidly changing situation and its devastating effects, to ensure that child protection remains central to the current and future responses, including for the Travel & Tourism sector's recovery."**

<https://www.protectingchildrenintourism.org/>

**CST destinations evolve quickly and frequently, as a result of the development of new tourism destinations and economic, social and political developments.<sup>3</sup>**

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced labour, accounting for 99% of victims in the commercial sex industry, and 58% in other sectors.<sup>5</sup>



In 2012, hotel business professionals (from the Accor Group), the police and ECPAT signed a joint agreement to reduce the delays in reporting cases of CST. The agreement provides special training for professionals in the hotel industry working in sex tourism destination countries in order to cooperate with authorities and better prevent the exploitation of children by tourists.<sup>4</sup>

1 - ECPAT International, Combating Child Sex Tourism, Questions and Answers, 2008. 2 - Idem. 3 - Thematic Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, A/HRC/22/54, 2012 <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/AnnualReports.aspx>. 4 - ECPAT International, Combating Child Sex Tourism, Questions and Answers, 2008. 5 - [https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS\\_575479/lang-en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_575479/lang-en/index.htm) 6 - <https://www.ecpat.org/news/covid-19-sexual-abuse/> 7 - <https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2019/07/29/12-trafficking-statistics-enormity-global-sex-trade/1755192001/> 8 - Idem.

**Profits from forced sexual labor are estimated at \$99 billion worldwide.<sup>8</sup>**

**13 sex trafficking statistics that explain the enormity of the global sex trade.<sup>7</sup>**

## Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



## General Ideas for Action!

**1 Raise**

awareness about the root causes of CST and organize public education campaigns

**2 Stay**

informed and support the efforts of authorities and the tourism industry to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children

**3 Support**

organizations that work to protect and end commercial sex tourism and exploitation

**4 Promote**

awareness raising and sensitization to ensure that both travellers and tourism professionals are aware of the issue and are able to formulate a response when they encounter the problem

**5 Lobby**

the business community to sign the Code of conduct for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism <http://www.thecode.org>

**6 Lobby your government**

to enforce legislation to prosecute tourists and travellers for sexual crime: <http://www.woman.ch/uploads/19nov/guide/WWSFpreventionGuide-2011-en.pdf>

**7 Encourage**

travel agencies, airlines and other travel and tourism companies to hand out information on CST such as brochures, ticket folders, luggage tags, video spots, public service announcements, etc. [www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net)

**8 Encourage**

tourists to choose and use the services of travel and tourism companies that have socially responsible tourism policies <http://ecpat.net/resources#category-about-csec>

**Use**

and disseminate only official information about the Pandemic provided by government sites or the World Health Organization website. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED  
LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

"Faith-based organizations are well-positioned by their familiarity with local threats, their stake in keeping their communities safe, and their ability to develop context, build trust, establish relationships, and provide protection before a trafficker ever acts. They can issue calls to action that cut across borders, cultures, ethnicities, and economic classes." <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-TIP-Report-Complete-062420-FINAL.pdf>

- The **SDG target #16.2** can be used to remind your congregation that all governments have agreed in 2015 "to End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children by 2030." <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16>
- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to the multi-religious vision of our shared humanity
- Promote Community Circles of Compassions (see pages 67 - 68)



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Learn about your right to dignity. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>
- Learn about safety and protection skills via workshops, school lessons, puppet shows, role playing, films and videos, storybooks and comics, etc.
- Help spread awareness on this topic by sharing our hashtags below on social media
- Speak up if you see, hear, or experience something that makes you uncomfortable
- Know where to report
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWpmqBmn52hvAXJAZ71W/view>
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>

Become a trained community volunteer to help identify suspected cases of COVID-19

Youth:  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #EndCST

# Theme 12 Prevention of Harmful Traditional Practices (4 pages)



Updated version 2020

## Definition

**Harmful traditional practices** stem from social convictions or deeply rooted traditions, culture, religion or superstition. These practices include:

- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Early, Child and Forced Marriage
- a preference for sons and its implications for the girl child
- acid violence,
- so-called "honor crimes"
- initiation rites
- ritual killings
- witchcraft
- breast flattening
- binding of newborns and infants
- birth superstitions
- and dowry systems<sup>1</sup>

These practices have severe consequences for the child's physical, emotional and psychological development. *Article 24.3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child* ([https://www.unicef.org/crc/files/Rights\\_overview.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/crc/files/Rights_overview.pdf))

On the next page you'll find a brief presentation of FGM, early child and forced marriage, son preference and female infanticide and honor killings.

## Good News !

### First Africa Summit on child Marriage & FGM, 21 June 2019 in Dakar, Senegal

Senior Islamic Cleric issues a Fatwa Against child Marriage. Deputy grand imam of al-Azhar calls for marriage based on mutual consent with minimum age set at 18.

The summit was organized by Jaha Dukureh, a Gambian campaigner and the founder of **Safe Hands for Girls**, herself a survivor of child marriage and FGM, who drove a successful campaign to end FGM in her country.

Jaha Dukureh, with Syrian journalist Abdalaziz Alhamza and African Union envoy Aya Chebbi, worked with imams to formalise a draft version of the child marriage fatwa.

**Four in 10 women in sub-Saharan Africa are married before their 18th birthday.** Boys are affected too – according to recent UN data, roughly one in 30 worldwide were married as children, with the highest number in Central African Republic, where almost a third of boys and men were child grooms.

More on: <https://www.the-guardian.com/global-development/2019/jun/21/senior-islamic-cleric-issues-fatwa-against-child-marriage>

**Child marriage occurs around the world and cuts across countries, cultures, religions and ethnicities**

**20 countries with the highest prevalence rates of child marriage:**

Niger 76%  
Central African Republic 68%  
Chad 67% Bangladesh 59%  
Burkina Faso 52%  
Mali 52%  
South Sudan 52%  
Guinea 51%  
Mozambique 48%  
Somalia 45%  
Nigeria 44%  
Malawi 42%  
Madagascar 41%  
Eritrea 41%  
Ethiopia 40%  
Uganda 40%  
Nepal 40%  
Sierra Leone 39%  
Democratic Republic of the Congo 37%  
Mauritania 37%.<sup>2</sup>

"Culture of acceptance is the main cause of FGM. In some communities, FGM has become a cultural practice. It is thought of as a way to make girls "clean" and "beautiful" in preparation for marriage and is a result of social norms which consider this act a necessary part of raising a girl properly."<sup>3</sup>



## Key effects of COVID-19 for children, including adolescents, and efforts to end harmful practices:

- social isolation and loss of social support
- increased risk of violence, abuse and exploitation
- loss of access to education, reproductive health and protection services
- loss of livelihoods
- opportunities to disrupt FGM and child marriage
- opportunities for young people<sup>7</sup>

1 - International NGO Council on Violence Against Children, Violating Children's Rights: Harmful Practices Based on Tradition, Culture, Religion or Superstition, 2012. 2 - <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/its-time-for-Africa-to-end-child-marriage.pdf> 3 - FGM Factsheet, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, [https://www.wagggg.org/documents/1065/FGM\\_page\\_2.pdf](https://www.wagggg.org/documents/1065/FGM_page_2.pdf) 5 - UNFPA, Child Marriage, 2018 <https://www.unfpa.org/child-marriage-frequently-asked-questions> 6 - <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/india/#:~:text=27%25%20of%20girls%20in%20India,brides%20in%20the%20world%20%E2%80%93%2015%2C509%2C000.> 7 - <https://www.unicef.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/TechnicalNote-COVID-19-and-HarmfulPractices-April%202020.pdf>

**27% of girls in India are married before their 18th birthday and 7% are married before the age of 15.<sup>6</sup>**

**Child marriage takes place all over the world. It even happens in developed countries – including the United States and United Kingdom.<sup>5</sup>**

## Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030







## WWSF presents below 4 selected harmful traditional practices



The COVID-19 pandemic is likely worsening child marriage and FGM.

The pandemic has vast impacts on the lives of girls and their families – from economic hardships and school closures to the loss of access to health services and community programmes.

### 1 - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) / Definition

FGM refers to all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.<sup>1</sup> The procedure has no health benefits for girls and women, and instead causes severe bleeding, problems urinating, later cysts, infections, and complications in childbirth.<sup>2</sup> The practice is often carried out by traditional circumcisers, who often play other central roles in communities, such as attending childbirths.<sup>3</sup> FGM is nearly always carried out on minors and is a violation of the rights of the child. The practice also violates a person's right to health, security, and physical integrity, the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, and the right to life when the procedure results in death.

Where FGM is a social norm, the social pressure to conform to what others do and have been doing, as well as the need to be accepted socially and the fear of being rejected by the community, are strong motivations to perpetuate the practice. In some communities, FGM is still almost universally performed and unquestioned.

#### *Female genital mutilation/cutting in Africa: A complex legal and ethical landscape*

Abstract: "While international and regional human rights instruments have recognized female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) as one of the most prevalent forms of violence against women and girls, in many African states, FGM/C is a deeply entrenched cultural practice. There is a consensus against FGM, as evidenced by its criminalization in several African countries. The mere fact that the practice continues despite legislative measures to protect women and girls against FGM raises the question of whether change can be legislated. The present article summarizes the trends and effectiveness of FGM criminalization in Africa, including prohibition of medicalization of FGM. Against the backdrop of emerging debate on medicalization of FGM as a harm reduction strategy, we also examine its complex legal and ethical implications. The article argues that while criminalization may not be the best means of stopping FGM, it creates an enabling environment to facilitate the overall strategy of African governments in eradication of the practice."

<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ijgo.12792>

### 2 - Early, Child, and Forced Marriage / Definition

"Child marriage, or early marriage, is any marriage where at least one of the parties is under 18 years of age. Forced marriages are marriages in which one and/or both parties have not personally expressed their full and free consent to the union. A child marriage is considered to be a form of forced marriage, given that one and/or both parties have not expressed full, free and informed consent." <https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/women/wrqs/pages/childmarriage.aspx>

#### *We recommend the Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from 26 April 2019*

The report highlights its causes, explores challenges and gaps in responding to it and records promising practices. The report was prepared based on various sources, including submissions by 15 States, 24 national human rights institutions, 39 civil society organizations and research institutes and 18 United Nations and other international entities.

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/G1911783.pdf>

"According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), more than 140 million girls will become child brides between 2011 and 2020. If current levels of child marriages hold, 14.2 million girls annually, or 39'000 daily will marry too young.

There are far-reaching consequences to the continuing practice of child marriage. Girls are often stripped of educational opportunities and subjugated to lives of chores, childbearing, and domestic violence, UNICEF says. The World Health Organisation also says the leading causes of death for girls ages 15 to 19 are complications from pregnancy or childbirth.<sup>5</sup>



**9 in 10 adolescent births occur within marriage or a union.<sup>6</sup>**

**More than 120 million additional girls will marry before their 18th birthday by 2030.<sup>7</sup>**

**At least 200 million girls and women alive today living in 31 countries have undergone FGM.<sup>8</sup>**

1- WHO, Female Genital Mutilation Fact Sheet, February 2017 2 - Idem. 3 - Idem. 4 - The South Asia initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), Workplan 2010-2015 5 - UNICEF 6 - UNFPA, State of the World Population, 2013, <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/EN-SWOP2013.pdf>. 7 - <https://www.unicef.org/stories/child-marriage-around-world> 8 - <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/female-genital-mutilation/>

**WHO, UNFPA and others recommend that in formal debate FGM be described as what is: an act that harms and damages the female genital organs, ie genital mutilation.**

# Theme 12

## Prevention of Harmful Traditional Practices cont'd.



Updated version 2020

"Furthermore, of the 140 million girls who will marry before the age of 18, 50 million will be under the age of 15. Despite the physical damage and the persistent discrimination to young girls, little progress has been made towards ending the practice of child marriage. In fact, the problem threatens to increase with the expanding youth population in the developing world."

<https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2013/09/child-marriages-39000-every-day-more-than-140-million-girls-will-marry-between-2011-and-2020/>

### 3 - Son Preference and Female Infanticide

#### Definition

Son preference refers to a whole range of values and attitudes which are manifested in many different practices, the common feature of which is a preference for the male child, often with concomitant daughter neglect.<sup>2</sup> It may mean that a female child is disadvantaged from birth; it may determine the quality and quantity of parental care and the extent of investment in her development; and it may lead to acute discrimination, particularly in settings where resources are scarce.<sup>3</sup> Although neglect is the rule, in extreme cases son preference may lead to selective abortion or female infanticide.<sup>4</sup>

The psychological effect of son preference on women and the girl child is the internalization of the low value accorded them by society. Geographically, there is a close correspondence between the areas of strong son preference and of health disadvantage for females. Discrimination in the feeding and care of female infants and/or higher rates of morbidity and malnutrition have been reported in countries with son preferences.

### 4 - Honor Killings

#### Definition

In many societies, rape victims, women suspected of engaging in premarital sex, and women accused of adultery have been murdered by their male relatives because the violation of a woman's chastity is viewed as an affront to the family's honour. It's difficult to get precise numbers on the phenomenon of honor killing; the murders frequently go unreported, the perpetrators unpunished, and the concept of family honor justifies the act in the eyes of some societies. Most honor killings occur in countries where the concept of women as a vessel of the family reputation predominates.

"So-called 'honor' crime is rooted in a global culture of discrimination against women, and the deeply rooted belief that women are objects and commodities, not human beings entitled to dignity and rights equal to those of men. Women's bodies, particularly, are considered the repositories of family honor, and under the control and responsibility of her family (especially her male relatives). And large sections of society share traditional conceptions of family honor and approve of 'honor' killings to preserve that honor."

That's the narrative that is used to justify these brutal attacks on women and girls.

The murder of women in the name of "honor" is a gender-specific form of discrimination and violence and should be regarded as part of a larger spectrum of violence against women, as well as a serious human rights violation. Violence against women in a global epidemic, and it effects women in every country, at every level of society.

Link to Amnesty International <https://www.amnestyusa.org/the-horror-of-honor-killings-even-in-us/>

1 - UNFPA, Child Marriage, 2018 <https://www.unfpa.org/child-marriage-frequently-asked-questions>. 2 - OHCHR, <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet23en.pdf> 3 - Idem. 4 - Idem. 5 - Unite To End Violence Against Women, <http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/pdf/VAW.pdf> 6 - [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/GSH2018/GSH18\\_Gender-related\\_killing\\_of\\_women\\_and\\_girls.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/GSH2018/GSH18_Gender-related_killing_of_women_and_girls.pdf) 7 - <https://www.unfpa.org/swop> 8 - <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/25-million-child-marriages-prevented-last-decade-due-accelerated-progress-according>

# 650 million

More than 650 million women and girls alive today were married before their 18th birthday. Twenty-one per cent of young women (20-24 years old) around the world were child brides.<sup>1</sup>

Female infanticide, prenatal sex selection and systematic neglect of girls are widespread in South and East Asia, North Africa, and the Middle East.<sup>5</sup>

58% of women killed globally were murdered by intimate partners or family members.<sup>6</sup>

The total number of girls married in childhood is now estimated at 12 million a year.<sup>8</sup>

Every day, hundreds of thousands of girls around the world are harmed physically or psychologically, with the full knowledge and consent of their families, friends and communities. And without urgent action, the situation is likely to worsen.

These are the findings of UNFPA's flagship 2020 State of World Population report.<sup>7</sup>

**1 Lobby your government to:**

- Implement the CEDAW and CRC Conventions, set up the legal minimum age for marriage and require birth and marriage registrations
- Enact, strengthen and enforce laws prohibiting FGM and child marriage

**2 Organize**

educational campaigns aimed at raising awareness of the risks and consequences of harmful traditional practices and stimulating public discussion and debate. Use of mass media (TV, radio, community theatre, newspapers), individual and group consultations, information sessions, and training sessions

**3 Promote**

access to primary and secondary education to help delay child marriage

**4 Promote**

a multi-sectorial, sustained and community-led approach for action <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/272429/9789241513913-eng.pdf?ua=1>

**5 Involve**

respected and influential personalities as agents of change, calling for the elimination of harmful traditional practices <http://www.woman.ch/uploads/19nov/guide/WWSFpreventionGuide-2011-en.pdf>

**6 Ensure**

that the medical profession supports the abandonment of FGM: provide training to health care providers <http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Joint%20Programme%20on%20FGMC%20Summary%20Report.pdf>

**7 Develop**

alternative coming-of-age rituals to celebrate a young girl's entry into womanhood that do not involve physically harming them

**8 Call for**

simplification of nullification process of Early, Child and Forced Marriages

**Ensure**

policies and interventions around response speak to everyone's needs, which is a fundamental step to understanding the primary and secondary effects of a health emergency on different individuals and communities. At the same time the protection needs of women and girls must be at the center of response efforts.

**Learn**

more about COVID-19 prevention ideas, consult the excellent UNFPA report: **Putting the brakes on COVID-19: Safeguarding the health and rights of women and girls** <https://www.unfpa.org/news/putting-brakes-covid-19-safeguarding-health-and-rights-women-and-girls>

State of the World Population 2020, link to the UNFPA report: <https://www.unfpa.org/swop>

**Empower**

African youth leading the way on ending harmful practices

**Organize**

civil society discussions based on this topic

**WHAT YOUTH CAN DO**

- Raise awareness in your community about what constitutes harmful traditional practices
- Mark the International Day for Zero tolerance for FGM on 6 February
- Learn about the harmful traditional practices prevailing in your community
- Learn about how to become a Children Rights Defender (Youth who take actions to defend their own rights or those of others)
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWpmqBmn52hvAXJAZ7IW/view>
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/>
- Stand up for these harmful traditional practices to end

Youth:  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

**IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED  
LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES**

"Make no mistake: there is no honor in violence against women, and no cultural, social, or **religious** belief is ever a valid reason to commit violence against women, or deprive anyone of their fundamental human rights."

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/the-horror-of-honor-killings-even-in-us/>

- Create a Global Call to Action to help eliminate all forms of harmful traditional practices against women and children still prevailing today
- Ensure support for girls sold into marriage without their consent
- Encourage children and youth to speak to you. It can transform harmful practices such as FGM
- Create Circles of Compassion (see pages 67 - 68)

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #FGM #EndChildMarriage



# Theme 13 Street Children



Updated version 2020

## Definition

"Street Child", which was used by the Commission on Human Rights in 1994, was developed in the 1980s to describe "any girl or boy [...] for whom the street (in the broadest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.) has become his or her habitual abode and/or source of livelihood, and who is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults."

At that time, "street children" were categorized as either **children on the street**, who worked on the street and went home to their families at night; **children of the street**, who lived on the street, were functionally without family support but maintained family links; or **abandoned children** who lived completely on their own.<sup>1</sup>

Street children face extreme risks and vulnerabilities, including violence, sexual exploitation, forced labor, health problems and substance abuse, to name only a few. Children living and working on the streets are among the most excluded and at-risk persons in the world and are found in almost every major city or large town.

"There are health issues for children who live and work on the streets. The lack of medical care and inadequate living conditions mean they are more susceptible to chronic illnesses. They may also be at greater risk of sexual and other violence, exploitation, drug use etc."<sup>2</sup>

There are many factors that contribute to children living and working on the streets. Such risk factors include poverty, urban migration, the breakdown of the family and community structure, abuse and neglect in the home, trafficking, lack of access to basic services including education, and discrimination.

Some children are homeless with their families. They may be displaced due to poverty or natural

disasters or are refugees from areas of conflict. The family will move around frequently, taking their possessions with them. Others may be children with disabilities who have been abandoned by their families, children separated from their families for long periods of time, or children affected by or orphaned due to HIV/AIDS.<sup>3</sup>



The COVID-19 pandemic and responses to it have brought new risks to street children and homeless youth in developing countries unlike any we've ever seen before. This population, already vulnerable before the onset of the pandemic, has largely been forgotten in emergency preparedness and response.

As a result, street children and homeless youth face devastating direct and indirect consequences of this pandemic. Directly, street children are at increased risk of contracting the virus due to their limited ability to take preventative measures, and of developing complications if they contract the virus due to often having underlying health conditions and compromised immune systems.

[https://mcusercontent.com/32a5275302d9551ed125b5c2e/files/b550bbcb-658c-4f7e-b0ad-14623da1b611/CSC\\_Note\\_on\\_rights\\_of\\_street\\_children\\_during\\_covid\\_19\\_for\\_SR\\_Housing.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/32a5275302d9551ed125b5c2e/files/b550bbcb-658c-4f7e-b0ad-14623da1b611/CSC_Note_on_rights_of_street_children_during_covid_19_for_SR_Housing.pdf)

## "Why is it so important that street workers continue to work on the streets during COVID-19?"

The level of neglect and stigma around street children is increasing in this period. People see them as dirty and a likely source of infection. Street workers are there to give them assurance and also educate them on how to avoid infection."

Tijani Mahmoud, Street Work Manager, **MFCS-Ghana**  
#SafeSpaceForStreetChildren



Although girls living in street situations tend to make up the minority of street children (approximately 30%), they are extremely vulnerable to abuse and violence, such as propositions from police, who ask for sexual favors in exchange for their release, or hazing initiations by or servitude for older street boys, in which physical and sexual abuse have been reported.<sup>4</sup>

# 387,000,000

Extreme poverty, measured at \$1.90 per person per day, disproportionately affects children – 387 million, or 19.5% of the world's children live in extreme poverty compared to just 9.2% of adults.<sup>5</sup>

## Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



1 - <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/Study/OHCHRBrochureStreetChildren.pdf> 2 - <https://theirworld.org/explainers/street-children> 3 - <https://theirworld.org/explainers/street-children> 4 - <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/Study/OHCHRBrochureStreetChildren.pdf> 5 - <http://streetchildren.org> 6 - <https://www.unicef.org/videoaudio/PDFs/Uprooted.pdf>

About 28 million children are homeless globally due to violent conflict. Almost the same number have had to abandon their homes in search of a better life<sup>6</sup>



## Children LIVING IN THE STREET

- Can't "stay at home and stay safe" if they don't have a home and shelters are closed
  - Unable to access food and water if they cannot work on the street
  - Can't ask for care when they get sick.
- Danger of being locked out during a lockdown.<sup>6</sup>



### 1 Raise awareness

in your community about Human Rights Council Resolution 16/12, and lobby your government for the implementation of its recommendations, such as

- Ensuring universal and free birth registration
- Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty
- Ensuring fulfillment of the right to education
- Supporting capacities of families and caregivers
- Adopt, strengthen and implement cross-sectorial strategies and plans to eliminate violence against children living and/or working on the street
- Promote sustainable reintegration
- Additional recommendations: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/G11/126/92/PDF/G1112692.pdf?OpenElement>

### 2 Use

the WHO Training Package to inform efforts working directly with street children and make sure social workers are trained in child-centered approaches [http://www.who.int/substance\\_abuse/activities/street\\_children/en/](http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/activities/street_children/en/)

### 3 Raise

awareness about the of the Child and work with local partners to ensure that street children have their rights respected

### 4 Integrate

the voices of street-connected children into NGO planning, monitoring and evaluation

5

### Ensure

that appropriate, child-sensitive counseling, complaint and reporting mechanisms are in place so that street-connected children can report incidents of violence <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/Study/OHCHRBrochureStreetChildren.pdf>

6

### Train

law-enforcement officers on child rights and child protection <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/Study/OHCHRBrochureStreetChildren.pdf>



### Support

organization/NGOs, like the Consortium for Street Children in their COVID related recommendations and responses. Children in street situations are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 due to the fact that many are homeless or living in informal settlements. They have a particular relationship with public spaces, often forced by necessity. They have limited or no access to water and sanitation and are therefore among the most exposed to the risk of contagion. <https://www.streetchildren.org/how-covid19-affects-street-children/>



### Provide

accurate and supportive care and messaging with the intention to enhance people's safety, dignity and rights [https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19\\_A\\_Gender\\_Lens\\_Guidance\\_Note.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19_A_Gender_Lens_Guidance_Note.pdf)



### Act

individually and collectively to put children's welfare first, particularly for those who are already marginalized and are the hardest to reach.

"Doing all we can to ensure that government responses to COVID-19 take street-connected children, and the realities of their lives, into account, and that protective measures work for them too" <https://www.streetinvest.org/blog/covid-19-streets>



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Engage with the public discourse about how to help street children
- Learn about how to become a Children Rights Defender (Youth who take actions to defend their own rights or those of others)
- Mark the International Day for Street Children on 12 April with community awareness raising events
- Dedicate yourself to service of young people and children, in particular the poorest and those living in difficult situations. This is the best you can give to humanity
- Help spread awareness on this topic by sharing our hashtags below on social media
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWpmqBmn52hvAXJAZ7IW/view>
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/>



Find a way to get involved and help find solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic

Youth:  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

## IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- creating spaces for reflection, meditation or prayer, create a community circle of compassion
- Inspire your congregation to help create a world without children living on the streets - SDG Target #1
- Engage with the public discourse about creating structures for street children to leave the street and learn a trade
- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to the multi-religious vision of our shared humanity

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #FGM #StreetChildren

2020 Call to Action Kit 19 Days of Activism for prevention of violence against children and youth 1-19 November

Convener: Women's World Summit Foundation / Children-Youth Section - [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)



## Definition

Health-based discrimination affects children with mental and/or physical disabilities, health conditions, mental illness, malnutrition, as well as children infected with sexually transmitted diseases (HIV/AIDS especially), to name only a few examples. This theme addresses many different situations in which children may be discriminated against based on health conditions.

**Discrimination on the basis of disability means** “any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability which has the purpose or effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. It includes all forms of discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation.”<sup>1</sup>

**In addition to discrimination, children with disabilities are at a high risk of experiencing violence.**

“Children with disabilities have low level of enrollment in school, and even if they do attend, they are more likely to drop out early. Even in school, the quality and form of education received, often through separate schools, can increase exclusion and reinforce discriminatory social norms. This deprives children of their right to education and often limits their employment opportunities, participation in society, and a chance to escape poverty throughout the life cycle.”<sup>2</sup>

**One billion people, or 15% of the world’s population, experience some form of disability,** and disability prevalence is higher for developing countries. One-fifth of the estimated global total, or between 110 million and 190 million people, experience significant disabilities. Persons with disabilities are more likely to experience adverse socioeconomic outcomes than persons without disabilities, such as less

education, poorer health outcomes, lower levels of employment, and higher poverty rates.



including health, education, and transport.<sup>10</sup>

**The ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic** are more severe for certain groups of vulnerable children, with potential for some far-reaching effects. The outbreak challenges the resilience of vulnerable children as it increases in children’s environments the number of already existing risks (e.g. reduced access to healthy food, high family stress, and absence of contact with supportive adults) and reduces the number of protective factors (e.g. school placements, access to play spaces and extra-circular activities, and strong child protection systems).

<http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/combating-covid-19-s-effect-on-children-2e1f3b2f/#figure-d1e606>

**Resolution - Rights of the Child: Empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights, including through inclusive education**

### Excerpt:

“Recognizing that global estimates for the number of children with disabilities range from 93 million to 150 million, and deeply concerned about barriers that impede access to inclusive education for children with disabilities and that a significant percentage are either out of school or in school but not learning properly owing to a lack of access to accessible learning materials, inclusive curricula, teacher support and assistive devices, making children with disabilities, especially girls with disabilities, one of the most marginalized and excluded groups with regard to education.”<sup>8</sup>

1 - Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Art. 2. 2. - [http://www.campaignforeducation.org/docs/reports/Equal%20Right,%20Equal%20Opportunity\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.campaignforeducation.org/docs/reports/Equal%20Right,%20Equal%20Opportunity_WEB.pdf) 3 - Idem. 4 - UNICEF, Including Children with disabilities in humanitarian action, 2018 <http://training.unicef.org/disability/emergencies/index.html> 5 - [http://www.campaignforeducation.org/docs/reports/Equal%20Right,%20Equal%20Opportunity\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.campaignforeducation.org/docs/reports/Equal%20Right,%20Equal%20Opportunity_WEB.pdf) 6 - <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/43/41> 7 - <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-2.html> 8 - <https://www.right-docs.org/doc/a-hrc-res-40-14/> 9 - <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=24251&LangID=E> 12 - <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/disability> 10 - <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/GC.aspx>

# 1/10

Worldwide, one in every 10 children has a disability – and the proportion is even higher in areas with armed conflict or disasters.<sup>4</sup>

**When a disabled child does get the opportunity to receive a quality education, doors are opened. This enables them to secure other rights throughout their lifetime, fostering better access to jobs, health and other services.<sup>5</sup>**

**Link to the UN-General Comment No. 3 on Women and Girls with Disabilities.<sup>9</sup>**

**Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030**



**Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.<sup>7</sup>**

**Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities**  
17 December 2019.<sup>6</sup>

**Globally, an estimated 93 million children – or 1 in 20 of those aged up to 14 years of age – live with a moderate or severe disability.<sup>3</sup>**





According to article 23 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, there is the obligation of States to ensure the assistance required by children with disabilities for achieving their fullest possible social integration and individual development.<sup>1</sup>

Although the right to participation is exactly the same for all children, there are additional barriers children with disabilities face. Children with disabilities are not a homogenous group. Different impairments and abilities, as well as factors such as gender, age, culture, language and access to education will all impact the support needed to achieve inclusive participation.

It is quite effective to engage adults with disabilities in helping to create inclusive participation. They have the greatest expertise in understanding the barriers that exist and how to overcome them.

## International Day of Persons with Disabilities – IDPS

The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled



International  
Day of  
Persons with  
Disabilities  
3 DECEMBER

Persons was proclaimed in 1992, by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3. It aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in 2006, has further advanced the rights and well-being of persons with

disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international development frameworks.<sup>2</sup>

The theme for IDPD 2019 is “The Future is Accessible” The International Communication Project (ICP) marks the day because it advocates for people with communication disability, seeks to raise the profile of communication disability, and seeks to have them recognised accordingly.<sup>3</sup>

## There are 6 General Types of Disabilities for Children

### 1 - Physical Disability

Includes physiological, functional and/or mobility impairments.

Can be fluctuating or intermittent, chronic, progressive or stable, visible or invisible. Some involve extreme pain, some less, some none at all

### 2 - Visual Disability

“Legally Blind” describes an individual who has 10% or less of normal vision. Only 10% of people with a visual disability are actually totally blind.

The other 90% are described as having a “Visual Impairment.”

### 3 - Hearing Disability

“Deaf” describes an individual who has severe to profound hearing loss.

“Deafened” describes an individual who has acquired a hearing loss in adulthood.

“DeafBlind” describes an individual who has both a sight and hearing loss.

“Hard of Hearing” describes an individual who uses their residual hearing and speech to communicate.

### 4 - Intellectual Disability

Characterized by intellectual development and capacity that is significantly below average.

Involves a permanent limitation in a person's ability to learn.

### 5 - Learning Disabilities

A learning disability is essentially a specific and persistent disorder of a person's central nervous system affecting the learning process.

This impacts a person's ability to either interpret what they see and hear, or to link information from different parts of the brain.

### 6 - Mental Health Disability

Mental health disabilities can take many forms, just as physical disabilities do. Unlike many physical illnesses though, all mental illnesses can be treated.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> - Convention on the Rights of the Child <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx> <sup>2</sup> - <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/news/dspd/idpd.html> <sup>3</sup> - <https://internationalcommunicationproject.com/campaign-news/international-day-of-persons-with-disabilities/> <sup>4</sup> - <https://changingpaces.com/6-general-types-of-disabilities/>



## How to talk to children about disabilities ?

- Some children are born with disabilities. Make it clear that sometimes, babies are born with disabilities. But at other times, people develop disabilities later in life.
- Children with disabilities aren't sick. Explain that a child with cerebral palsy or muscular dystrophy isn't sick. You don't want the child to think he might catch a disability.
- There's nothing wrong with people with disabilities. A child may ask questions like, "What's wrong with that girl?" Explain that a child may have trouble talking or difficulty walking but that doesn't mean there's something "wrong" with her.
- A physical disability doesn't mean someone has a cognitive disability. Sometimes, children assume someone with a physical disability may also struggle to communicate or may not be smart. Make it clear that just because someone's body doesn't work the same doesn't mean their brain is impaired.
- Prepare for tough questions that children ask. Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know," if you don't have the answer. Or, try saying, "I'll have to think about that and get back to you," if you need some time to gather your thoughts before giving an answer.<sup>1</sup>

## Equal Opportunities for every child

Encourage the children to understand and value each others' differences.

- Encourage children with disabilities to contribute equally and to share the same obligations with all children.
- Allow children with disabilities to take the same risks as other children in order to help them to gain confidence. Over-protection denies them the chance to explore.
- Do not help children with disabilities unless they need it. Too much support denies them the chance to become independent.<sup>2</sup>

## Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities to eliminate discrimination based on health

Inclusive Education is the implementation of the "policy and process" that allows all children to participate in all programmes. "Policy" means that disabled children should be accepted without any restrictions in all the educational programmes meant for other children. It denotes equality, and accepts every child with his own unique capabilities. This principle must be accepted by all the international, national and local programmes. The "process" of inclusion denotes the ways in which the system makes itself welcoming to all.

In terms of inclusion of disabled children, it means the shift in services from "care of the disabled child" to his "education and personal development". Inclusive education goes one step further by defining these children as "children with special needs" who need special attention, rather than children who are "impaired" or "handicapped". Inclusive education is nothing but "Making the programme for disabled children as an integral part of the general educational system rather than a system within general education".<sup>3</sup>

**Children with disabilities and their families require different types of support services**, especially in the education and health sectors. They include assistive technology, communication support and individualized education plans, and information and assistance to families of children with disabilities in need. For too long, children and adolescents with disabilities have been mere recipients of "special care," when this is available at all, which resulted in widespread segregation, institutionalization and neglect. Families need help to understand disability in a positive way and to know how to help support their children to be autonomous and independent. Limited understanding of care can hinder their right to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity, and to be provided with disability- and age-appropriate assistance to realize that right.<sup>4</sup>

1 - <https://www.verywellfamily.com/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-disabilities-4142349> 2 - [https://www.unicef.org/disabilities/files/Take\\_Us\\_Seriously.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/disabilities/files/Take_Us_Seriously.pdf) 3 - <http://www.dinf.ne.jp/doc/english/asia/resource/apdrj/z13fm0300/z13fm0309.html> 4 - <https://www.unicef.org/disabilities/files/Assistive-Tech-Web.pdf>

## General Ideas for Action!

### 1 Educate

students on the problem of media messages that portray discriminatory representations, and stigmatize disability, health conditions, and mental illness

### 2 Use media

including advertising campaigns, as entertainment designed to educate as well as to amuse ("edutainment"), and integrate non-stigmatizing messages into TV and radio shows (UNAIDS)

### 3 Lobby your government

to take the costs associated with children with disability into account in the creation of social policies through social grants, transportation subsidies, etc. (UNICEF)

### 4 Take action

to help end overreliance on institutionalization for children with disabilities, and support the development of family-based and community-based rehabilitation

### 5 Dismantle barriers

to exclusion, and promote the need to ensure that schools, health facilities, and public spaces are built to facilitate access and the participation of all children

### 6 Be sure

that children with disabilities are at the center of efforts to build inclusive societies, and consulted to hear their needs and whether or not they are being met, both through NGO work and creation of government policies (Idem.)



### Follow

local guidelines for COVID 19 while helping your child stay as active as possible both indoors and outdoors



### Keep

emergency contact numbers where you can easily see them on your refrigerator or on your telephone



### Support

meaningful engagement of women and girls at the community level, including their networks and organizations, to ensure efforts and response are not further discriminating and excluding those most at risk. [https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19\\_A\\_Gender\\_Lens\\_Guidance\\_Note.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19_A_Gender_Lens_Guidance_Note.pdf)



### Strengthen

the capacity of youth organizations to engage safely, effectively and meaningfully in ways that enable young people to augment their knowledge on the virus and play an effective role in the prevention and response, including as social and community workers and as assistants to professional health staff, where needed and possible. [https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19\\_Preparedness\\_and\\_Response\\_-\\_UNFPA\\_Interim\\_Technical\\_Briefs\\_Adolescents\\_and\\_Young\\_People\\_23\\_March\\_2020.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19_Preparedness_and_Response_-_UNFPA_Interim_Technical_Briefs_Adolescents_and_Young_People_23_March_2020.pdf)



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Know how the problem of discrimination based on health condition manifests in your community
- Learn about how to become a Children Rights Defender (Youth who take actions to defend their own rights or those of others)
- Mark the World AIDS Day 1st December, and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3rd December
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/>
- Don't stigmatize your peers or tease anyone about being sick; remember that the virus doesn't follow geographical boundaries, ethnicities, age or ability or gender.(UNICEF)



Young people exposed to COVID-19 are as likely as old people to become infected and contagious. They should therefore strictly follow national guidelines around screening, testing, containment and care and practice social distancing. [https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19\\_Preparedness\\_and\\_Response\\_-\\_UNFPA\\_Interim\\_Technical\\_Briefs\\_Adolescents\\_and\\_Young\\_People\\_23\\_March\\_2020.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19_Preparedness_and_Response_-_UNFPA_Interim_Technical_Briefs_Adolescents_and_Young_People_23_March_2020.pdf)



Young people represent a valuable resource and network during crises to discuss public health responses

Youth:  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

## IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Ensure that the needs of children and adolescents with disabilities are taken into account in all aspects of your congregation's activities, including when planning and implementing them
- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to the multi-religious vision of our shared humanity

## WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

Teach children kindness and compassion to other children with disabilities  
<https://www.verywellfamily.com/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-disabilities-4142349>



# Theme 15 Prevention of Addiction and Substance Abuse



Updated version 2020

## Definition of Addiction

is the repeated use of a psychoactive substance or substances, to the extent that the user (referred to as "an addict") is periodically or chronically intoxicated, shows a compulsion to take the preferred substance/s, has great difficulty in voluntarily ceasing or modifying substance abuse, and exhibits determination to obtain substances by almost any means. Frequently, withdrawal syndrome occurs when substance use is interrupted.

Substance abuse refers to the use of substances, including alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs, pharmaceutical drugs, and other harmful substances used for non-medical purposes in a way that is harmful or hazardous.<sup>2</sup> Substance abuse often leads to addiction, but can also pose a problem without the physical dependence of addiction.

The term "drug" includes any natural or synthetic substance listed in the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. Psychoactive substances are substances that affect mental processes when ingested and include both illicit and licit substances. In conflict regions, drugs are often used to retain children and youth as child soldiers, and children are also abducted to become traffickers in the drug trade.<sup>3</sup> There is a strong link between substance abuse and youth engagement in criminal activities. An emerging challenge is "new psychoactive substances" (NPS), which mimic effects of controlled substances, but are not currently regulated by International drug treaties.<sup>4</sup>

## Addiction and Substance Abuse

is a global problem that causes a disproportionate amount of harm to children/young people. The problem spans all regions of the world, manifests in different forms, and relates to both illicit and licit drugs and substances. There is a strong correlation between children/youth exposed to drugs on one hand, and an increased risk of physical/sexual abuse, neglect, anxiety, depression, delinquency, and educational problems, on the other.<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction

*For this important subject, we wish to suggest that you look up the MENTOR Foundation, the leading international NGO working globally to prevent drug abuse.*

**Mission:** To empower young people and prevent drug abuse.

Commitment: to providing and encouraging the development of best practices and evidence-based programs aimed at the promotion of health and well-being for all young people. Mentor's work has been recognized by the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime, the World Health Organization, the Organization of American States, and the Council of Europe.

Link: <http://mentorinternational.org/about-mentor/about-us/>

## The World Drug Report 2019

<https://wdr.unodc.org/wdr2019/>

"The World Drug Report 2019 is again presented in five separate parts that divide the wealth of information and analysis contained in the report into individual reader-friendly booklets in which drugs are grouped by their psychopharmacological effect for the first time in the report's history."



"The COVID-19 pandemic may worsen existing mental health problems and lead to more cases among children and adolescents because of the unique combination

of the public health crisis, social isolation, and economic recession. Economic downturns are associated with increased mental health problems for youth that may be affected by the ways that economic downturns affect adult unemployment, adult mental health, and child maltreatment."<sup>9</sup>

"COVID-19 and opioid addiction are considered the two great epidemics of our generation, and they are now intersecting in additively deadly ways. The need for adolescent substance use prevention has never been greater and we remain dedicated to continuing our work to empower young people to live healthy and productive lives, free of substance use."<sup>10</sup>

# 255 000 000

There are 255 million drug users worldwide.<sup>5</sup>

Victims of cyberbullying are more likely to use alcohol and drugs.<sup>6</sup>

The global market in drug trafficking has an estimated annual global value of between \$426 billion and \$652 billion (USD).<sup>8</sup>

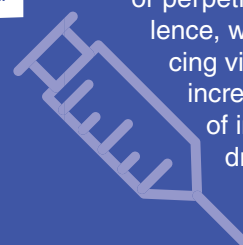
## Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



1 - [http://www.incb.org/documents/Publications/AnnualReports/AR2013/English/AR\\_2013\\_E.pdf](http://www.incb.org/documents/Publications/AnnualReports/AR2013/English/AR_2013_E.pdf) 2 - WHO [http://www.who.int/substance\\_abuse/terminology/who\\_lexicon/en/](http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/terminology/who_lexicon/en/) 3 - [http://www.crin.org/docs/Childrens\\_rights\\_and\\_drug\\_use.pdf](http://www.crin.org/docs/Childrens_rights_and_drug_use.pdf) 4 - [https://www.unodc.org/documents/scientific/NPS\\_Report.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/scientific/NPS_Report.pdf) 5 - [https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/WDR17\\_Fact\\_sheet.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/WDR17_Fact_sheet.pdf) 6 - [https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/SOWC\\_2017\\_ENG\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/SOWC_2017_ENG_WEB.pdf) 7 - [https://www.unodc.org/pdf/youthnet/who\\_street\\_children\\_module3.PDF](https://www.unodc.org/pdf/youthnet/who_street_children_module3.PDF) 8 - <https://www.talkingdrugs.org/report-global-illegal-drug-trade-valued-at-around-half-a-trillion-dollars> 9 - Golberstein E, Gonzales G, Meara E. How do economic downturns affect the mental health of children? evidence from the National Health Interview Survey. Health Econ. 2019 10 - <https://mentorfoundationusa.org/mentor-covid-19/>

List of frequently used substances: Alcohol, Nicotine, Opioids, Hallucinogens, Cannabis, Hypnotosedatives, Stimulants, Amphetamines, Cocaine and Inhalants.<sup>7</sup>

Involvement in drug use can increase the risks of being both a victim and/or perpetrator of violence, while experiencing violence can increase the risks of initiating illicit drug use.



**1 Join**

Mentor International's Prevention Hub to access the latest research and tools for substance abuse prevention amongst children and youth

**2 Create**

a platform to publicly highlight innovative and effective drug and substance abuse prevention programs for children and youth

**3 Involve**

children and youth in advocating for their own needs with regard to substance abuse prevention (interactive theater, art projects, child-friendly media, opportunities to address needs to government representatives, etc.)

**4 Learn and integrate**

parenting techniques to help prevent substance abuse of your children

**5 Engage**

with local schools, youth groups and community development organizations

**6 Integrate**

substance abuse prevention and treatment into a national strategy for the healthy development of children and youth

**7 Develop**

national standards for schools, employers and healthcare professionals to implement substance abuse prevention and education policies into their programming

**8 Lobby**

local authorities to ensure the youth voice is heard, and use social media, TV, and press to inform adults about how drugs and substance abuse affect children and youth

**9 Ensure**

that juvenile justice for substance abuse upholds the rights of the child

**Use**

and disseminate only official information about the Pandemic provided by government sites or the World Health Organization website.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Know about the dangers and consequences of substance abuse and create awareness against addiction in your community
- Create support groups for recovering addicts to avoid their relapse
- Engage in your community and encourage a healthy lifestyle to prevent substance abuse
- Visit and learn from the Mentor program for classmates suffering from addiction and substance abuse <http://preventionhub.org/en>
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWpmgBmn52hvAXJAZ7IW/view>
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/>
- Become a trained community volunteer to help identify suspected cases of COVID-19

Youth:  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED  
LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

Share the guide for families:

Link : <https://drugabuse.com/guide-for-families/parents-of-addicted-children/>

Communicate with your addicted child :

- Stay engaged and focused.
- Display a sense of acceptance and understanding.
- Be kind and respectful.
- Reduce distractions.
- Focus on the good.
- Diminish negative reactions.
- Using encouragement and optimism to build a sense of teamwork and cooperation while reducing conflict and negativity



# 16 Prevention of Malnutrition



Updated version 2020

## Definition

**Malnutrition refers to deficiencies, excesses, or imbalances in a person's intake of energy and/or nutrients. The term malnutrition addresses 3 broad groups of conditions:**

- undernutrition, which includes wasting (low weight-for-height), stunting (low height-for-age) and underweight (low weight-for-age);
- micronutrient-related malnutrition, which includes micronutrient deficiencies (a lack of important vitamins and minerals) or micronutrient excess; and
- overweight, obesity and diet-related noncommunicable diseases (such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and some cancers).<sup>1</sup>

**Malnutrition during childhood** can lead not only to long-term health problems but also to educational challenges and limited work opportunities in the future. Malnourished children often have smaller babies when they grow up. It can also slow recovery from wounds and illnesses, and it can complicate diseases such as measles, pneumonia, malaria, and diarrhea. It can leave the body more susceptible to disease.<sup>2</sup>

**World hunger** is classified as the want or scarcity of food in a country. Hunger is also referred to as malnutrition, including under-nutrition and over-nutrition. There are three forms of under-nutrition: underweight, stunting, and wasting. Being underweight, or having a low weight for a child's age, can imply both stunting and wasting.

Studies show that decreased malnutrition leads to higher school completion rates. Providing nutritious food at school is an effective way to improve literacy rates and help children break out of this cycle of poverty. One hundred and seventy one million people could be lifted out of poverty if all students in low-income countries acquired basic reading skills.

## The right to food is protected under international humanitarian law. The

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Art. 25) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (Art. 11) ensure that the right to food is a human right.

However, in much of the world, hunger and malnutrition are not being treated as a human rights issue. Data shows that there is enough food produced annually to feed the entire global population, yet hundreds of millions of people still go to bed hungry each night.

## Fewer Children Suffer Malnutrition that Causes Stunting

Young children who do not get enough food and nutrients cannot grow properly and can become too short for their age. This condition is called "stunting" and it prevents children from developing to their full potential – both mentally and physically. 33% decline in the child stunting rate worldwide = Good Progress Result: 49 million fewer stunted children today compared to 2000.

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/global-childhood-report-2019-pdf%20%281%29.pdf>



"Covid-19 exposes deadly health-care disparities. Transformed and strengthened health systems must focus on delivering preventive nutrition and health services and

be ready to respond to crises. They should also be enhanced to address challenges faced by specific populations, especially older people and those with pre-existing conditions, such as weakened immune systems and poor metabolic health. They should specifically pay attention to women and **children**, especially to their nutritional well-being and healthcare. Yet even the strongest health systems are struggling with high healthcare costs and a shortage of medical personnel, equipment and facilities."

For more information, read the **Global Nutrition report** : <https://globalnutritionreport.org/reports/2020-global-nutrition-report/2020-global-nutrition-report-context-covid-19/>

20%

**By 2050, hunger and malnutrition could increase by up to 20 percent as a result of climate-related disasters.<sup>3</sup>**

30%

**In low or moderate income countries, 30% (182 million) children are stunted or underweight.<sup>4</sup>**

**47 million children under 5 years of age are wasted, 14.3 million are severely wasted and 144 million are stunted, while 38.3 million are overweight or obese.<sup>7</sup>**

1 - <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malnutrition> 2 - <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/179316.php>  
3 - <https://www.wfp.org/climate-action> 4 - NCBI, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4232245/> 5 - WHO, <http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/childhood/en/> 6 - [https://www.worldhunger.org/world-child-hunger-facts/#:~:text=Approximately%203.1%20million%20children%20die,disease%20\(UNICEF%2C%202018a\)](https://www.worldhunger.org/world-child-hunger-facts/#:~:text=Approximately%203.1%20million%20children%20die,disease%20(UNICEF%2C%202018a).) 7 - <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malnutrition>

## Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



# 3,000,000

It is estimated that around 3 million children die each year due to undernutrition.<sup>6</sup>

# 42,000,000+

children worldwide are overweight.<sup>5</sup>





## General Ideas for Action!

- 1 Promote**  
the use of breastfeeding (unless a mother is HIV infected), especially since breast milk protects babies from illness and ensures healthy physical and psychological development
- 2 Monitor**  
children's growth by regularly weighing a child to identify growth faltering before it becomes a serious issue
- 3 Encourage**  
pregnant mothers to increase their food and nutrient intake
- 4 Promote**  
physical activity
- 5 Offer**  
a nutritious meal at school to improve attendance and literacy rates and help poor children break out of poverty
- 6 Devote**  
funding to nutrition programs
- 7 Introduce**  
diet and exercise-related programs in schools to discourage over-nutrition
- 8 Uphold**  
the importance of maternal nutrition before and during pregnancy to prevent low birth weight
- 9 Promote**  
sustainable food production and consumption, as well as good hygiene practices and access to drinking water
- 10 Encourage**  
healthier food choices, such as fruits, vegetables, wholegrains, and lean meats



### Use

and disseminate only official information about the Pandemic provided by government sites or the World Health Organization website.  
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Learn about your right to dignity <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>
- Learn about how to become a Children Rights Defender (Youth who take actions to defend their own rights or those of others)
- Organize awareness raising and fundraising activities on eliminating malnutrition
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWpmqBmn52hvAXJAZ7IW/view>
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/>
- Become a trained community volunteer to help identify suspected cases of COVID-19

Youth:  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

## IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Invite your congregation members to unite those in need of food, especially during the COVID confinement, and distribute basic essentials to avoid malnutrition of children
- Support access to a nutritious meal at school to improve attendance and literacy rates and help poor children break out of poverty conditions
- Highlight that ensuring that no one is left behind is linked to the multi-religious vision of our shared humanity



# 17 Prevention of ICTs Dangers



Updated version 2020

## Definition

**Information and Communication Technology (ICT)** refers to the use and transmission of information. ICT encompasses computers, the Internet, mobile phones, television, radio, satellite systems, etc. ICTs are also tools for children's empowerment and participation but at the same time they may present a risk to children's safety and well-being. In many corners of the world, children and youth today grow up with ICTs as an integral part of their life, accentuating the need to teach children how to use ICTs and to protect them from the risks they are exposed to.

## The Internet and ICTs heighten the potential impact of existing forms of violence, abuse and exploitation in, among others, the following ways:

- Children's exposure to disturbing or potentially harmful content on websites, online forums and blogs
- Sale and sexual exploitation of children, which is committed or facilitated through new technologies
- Proliferation of child sexual abuse images and materials and with this, increased levels of harm for the victims and increased levels of profits for criminal enterprises
- Development of virtual networks of individuals whose principal interest lies in child sexual abuse or child trafficking and other forms of exploitation
- Inappropriate contact with children and 'grooming' by unknown adult(s)
- Exposure to violent video games is linked to delinquency, fighting at school and during their free time as well as violent criminal behavior
- Online pressure to make purchases or pay for services
- Overuse of ICTs and Internet 'addiction'

• Generating and broadcasting of sexual content involving children

• Children's own involvement in cybercrime and online scams<sup>1</sup>

## Your child might be addicted to video games if they exhibit the following signs:

- Talk about their game(s) incessantly
- Play for hours on end (I played for up to 14 hours a day when possible)
- Get defensive when told about their excessive gaming habit
- Get angry or explosive when made to stop
- Sacrifice basic needs (e.g., sleep) in order to game
- Hide or downplay time spent gaming
- Seem preoccupied, depressed, or lonely.<sup>2</sup>

## What is child online protection?

Online technologies present many possibilities for children and young people to communicate, learn new skills, be creative and contribute to establishing a better society. But they can also bring new risks such as exposing them to issues of privacy, illegal content, harassment, cyberbullying, misuse of personal data, grooming and even child sexual abuse.

These guidelines develop a holistic approach to respond to all potential threats and harms that children and young people may encounter when acquiring digital literacy. They recognise that all relevant stakeholders have a role in their digital resilience, well-being, and protection while benefitting from the opportunities that the Internet can offer.<sup>3</sup>

**Relevant Sustainable Development Goal by 2030**



## What is sexting?

"Sexting" happens when someone sends sexually explicit photographs or messages to another person. Though it can seem harmless, there are many dangerous consequences and you should never send these images to any person.

• It is a crime to make, send or receive sexually explicit images of anyone under the age of 18.

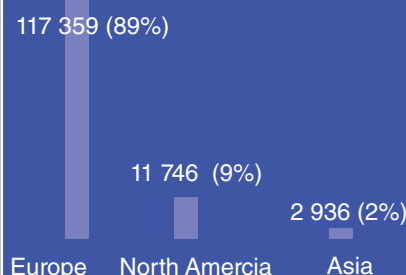
Some states have different penalties when both the person sending and person receiving the images are under 18, but it's always illegal.

• Once a sexually explicit photograph of you is sent to someone else, it's just about impossible to get it back. That image can be distributed to anyone or anywhere: your family, your friends, your school community, and your present or future employers. These images will stay online forever and, although it is a crime, there is a whole underground market of predators exchanging them.<sup>4</sup>

It is estimated that only 10% of children's viewing is spent watching children's television, the other 90% is spent watching programs designed for adults.<sup>5</sup>

10%

## Continents hosting all child sexual abuse material URLs in 2019.<sup>6</sup>



1 - [https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/documents/publications/6.\\_releasing\\_childrens\\_potential\\_and\\_minimizing\\_risks\\_icts\\_fa\\_low\\_res.pdf](https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/documents/publications/6._releasing_childrens_potential_and_minimizing_risks_icts_fa_low_res.pdf) 2 - <https://www.parent.com/how-to-tell-if-your-child-is-addicted-to-video-games-and-how-to-help/> 3 - [https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/2020/itu\\_guidelines/itu\\_guidelines.pdf](https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/2020/itu_guidelines/itu_guidelines.pdf) 4 - <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/594970e91b631b3571be12e2/t/5e86162a7b58d057ce833a2f/1585845803822/Youth+Online+Safety+Guide.pdf> 5 - <https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/position-statements/PSMEVI98.PDF> 6 - <https://www.iwf.org.uk/report/iwf-2019-annual-report-zero-tolerance> 7 - <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/28/55> 8 - Center for Educational Neuroscience, 2018, <http://www.educationalneuroscience.org.uk/resources/neuromyth-or-neurofact/violent-video-games-make-children-more-violent/>.

Children who play violent video games, particularly for extended periods of time, might then engage in violent behaviour with their peers, or even copy acts of violence experienced during game play.<sup>8</sup>

ICTs are increasingly the means children choose to seek advice from child helplines, approach a children's ombuds person, report incidents of violence, ask for help and assistance, or promote child rights advocacy through websites, blogs and social networks.<sup>7</sup>



## General Ideas for Action!

### 1 Lobby

your government to evaluate and control media content for age appropriate use

### 2 Promote

filtering technologies to prevent child abuse content online from being accessed

### 3 Teach

your children about basic internet safety, including never sharing your password or address, never arranging to meet someone without telling a parent, how to report hateful content, etc.

### 4 Raise awareness

of the risks associated with ICTs among children, their parents and caregivers

### 5 Encourage

the development of effective policy responses, appropriate monitoring tools, counseling and complaint mechanisms

### 6 Promote

training of law enforcement officials, teachers, child protection officers and other professionals working with children

### 7 Involve and empower

children and youth through the use of new technologies and social media, encouraging them to share ideas and knowledge of exploitative

behaviors and ways to stop them, and to report suspicious behavior [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/SR/A.HRC.28.56\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/SR/A.HRC.28.56_en.pdf)

### 8 Highlight

the role of the corporate sector to introduce measures to enhance online safety [http://www.itu.int/en/cop/Documents/bD\\_Broch\\_INDUSTRY\\_0909.pdf](http://www.itu.int/en/cop/Documents/bD_Broch_INDUSTRY_0909.pdf) & <http://www.unicef.org/csr/215.htm>

### 9 Ensure

helplines exist in your country <http://www.childhelplineinternational.org>

### 10 Establish

hotlines to allow the reporting of exploitative practices, such as the INHOPE network <http://www.inhope.org/gns/home.aspx>



### Guide to Online Safety During The COVID-19 Outbreak

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/594970e91b631b3571be12e2/t/5e86162a7b58d057ce833a2f/1585845803822/Youth+Online+Safety+Guide.pdf>



### Limit

screen time, and monitor their children's access online, while also ensuring that children are safe online



### Follow

who your children meet and befriend online. Ensure children's devices have the latest software updates and antivirus programs; have open dialogues with children on how and with whom they are communicating online; work with children to establish rules for how, when, and where the internet can be used; be alert to signs of distress in children that may emerge in connection with their online activity, and be familiar with school district policies and local reporting mechanisms and have access to numbers of support helplines and hotline handy. <https://www.end-violence.org/online-safety-technical-note>



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Speak out about the harmful content that you encounter on the internet; Learn basic internet safety
- Engage in social media campaigns to promote awareness against sharing personal information or photos with strangers
- Promote a regulated use of the internet
- Involve children and youth in advocating against the dangers of ICTs through interactive theatre, art projects, and the production of guidelines, manuals, and videos. Mark 10 February Safe Internet Day
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/>
- ICTs provide an opportunity for young people with disabilities to learn about their rights, campaign without barriers, and increase visibility

## IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Inform your congregation of online protection measures
- How to deal with video games addiction: A manual for parents and professionals: <http://www.sectorconnect.org.au/assets/28-2-How-to-deal-with-Video-Game-Addiction-A-manual-for-parents-and-professionals-edition1.pdf>

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #PreventDangersICTs



**Definition**

**Abduction (or kidnapping)** is the taking away or transportation of a person against that person's will, generally by force, and usually to hold the person in false imprisonment.

**Child abduction** can take various forms:

- Abduction by strangers or people outside the family, for criminal purposes (ransom, rape, torture, murder, etc.)
- Abduction by strangers wishing to rear the child as their own (mostly the case of persons with psychological problems)
- Abduction by a family member or relative, usually parents (assisted or not by accomplices)

**Article 9 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** calls on State Parties to "ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will." In many countries, child abduction rings are in operation, and children are abducted to be sold into forced labor or forced begging, to be recruited into armed forces or drug smuggling gangs, to be sold into illegal adoption, to be trafficked for sexual exploitation, or to be forced into marriage.

**Non-parental abduction** can occur when children are abandoned because their families cannot care for them, when children run away from home from an unstable environment or child abuse, or when lost from their parents such as during travel, natural disasters, or displacement from conflict.

**Yet, in most cases children are abducted by close relatives.** International parental child abduction occurs when a parent (or legal guardian) takes his/her child(ren) to a country other than their country of residence, without prior permission from the other parent. This definition also applies to international cases in which pre-arranged child custody visits are not respected.<sup>1</sup>

In order to assist in the resolution of abduction cases in a swift and consistent manner, legal and social systems must be improved.



International Centre  
FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

The NGO "International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children" (ICMEC), trained over 20,000+ child-protection specialists on how to respond to and investigate child abduction, sexual abuse and exploitation. <https://www.icmec.org/>

WEBINAR (English) by ICMEC: Missing Children: The pandemic impact on missing children and their needs (16 Apr 2020)  
Link to the webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=naTIYCbVQ1Q&feature=youtu.be>

**Key considerations for children:**

- COVID-19 adds additional concerns for children, grappling with family conflict, especially those of a cross-border nature. It is therefore essential that children understand the implications of the pandemic and are part of discussions in finding appropriate responses.
- Those responsible for caring for the children (parents and/or professionals) should have open exchanges with the children, adapted to their age about:
  - their doubt(s) and apprehension about the new situation
  - the impact of COVID-19 on contact with their parent(s)
  - if necessary, why it is not possible to see the other parent
  - contact arrangements with the other parent and how, communication will be maintained through virtual means
  - if necessary, that contact with the other parent may be limited but that the situation is temporary and that he or she will be able to communicate with his or her parents whenever he or she wants to during this period.<sup>2</sup>

**CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION.<sup>3</sup>**

98

countries are signatories to the Hague International Child Abduction Convention.<sup>4</sup>

In 2019, some 1,683 children (vs 2,493 in 2018) were abducted, notably for the purpose of recruitment and sexual abuse, with the highest verified cases in Somalia, DRC and Nigeria.<sup>5</sup>

Mass abduction of children have been on the rise for recent years as a tactic to terrorize or target political, ethnic and religious groups.<sup>8</sup>

1 - <http://www.childfocus.be/fr/parents/disparition/enlevements-parentaux-internationaux>. 2 - [https://www.iss-ssi.org/images/COVID-19/ENG/FactsheetCovid-19\\_ISS.pdf](https://www.iss-ssi.org/images/COVID-19/ENG/FactsheetCovid-19_ISS.pdf) 3 - <https://assets.hcch.net/docs/e86d9f72-dc8d-46f3-b3bf-e102911c8532.pdf> 4 - <https://www.icmec.org/global-missing-childrens-center/international-parental-child-abduction/> 5 - [https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/15-June-2020\\_Secretary-General\\_Report\\_on\\_CAAC\\_Eng.pdf](https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/15-June-2020_Secretary-General_Report_on_CAAC_Eng.pdf) 6 - <https://www.icmec.org/> 7 - [https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/15-June-2020\\_Secretary-General\\_Report\\_on\\_CAAC\\_Eng.pdf](https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/15-June-2020_Secretary-General_Report_on_CAAC_Eng.pdf) 8 - <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/six-grave-violations/abduction-of-children/>

1,000,000

Over 1 million children are reported missing every year.<sup>6</sup>

**Relevant Sustainable Development Goals by 2030**



## General Ideas for Action!

### 1 Set up and/or support

family mediation systems helping adults to peacefully resolve conflicts related to divorce, child custody. For example, create spaces allowing people to share their concerns in the presence of a third party

### 2 Share

the Hague Convention Guide to Good Practice with local and national policy makers <https://www.hcch.net/en/publications-and-studies/publications2/guides-to-good-practice>

### 3 Use

the Hague Convention Guide to Good Practice Part III: Prevention Measures to inform the basis for the creation of a child abduction prevention plan and strategy [http://www.hcch.net/upload/abdguideiii\\_e.pdf](http://www.hcch.net/upload/abdguideiii_e.pdf)

### 4 Create

school programs to sensitize children, youth, parents and teachers on issues related to the prevention of abduction. Such issues may include the risks of the Internet, sexual abuse, and the protection of vulnerable groups

### 5 Circulate

the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the other international or regional treaties protecting the right of children to live with their families

### 6 Contribute

to the diffusion of emergency helplines among children as well as adults

### 7 Join

the global child abduction prevention leaders in support of implementing the "International Travel Child Consent Form" [http://www.stopchildabduction.org/Child\\_Travel\\_Consent\\_Form.htmlDs](http://www.stopchildabduction.org/Child_Travel_Consent_Form.htmlDs)



### Use

and disseminate only official information about the pandemic provided by government sites or the World Health Organization website. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Know and promote safety regulations in your community
- Create trust circles in your communities where youth could communicate challenges they face
- Never go anywhere with someone you and your parents do not know and trust
- Set a good example for younger children and assist them if they are in danger
- Mark the International Missing Children Day, 25 May with public events, activities, projects aiming at raising awareness among your communities and authorities
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/>

Become a trained community volunteer to help identify suspected cases of COVID-19

Youth:  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

## IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Participate in the Missing Children Day, 25 May
- In many countries, child abduction rings are in operation and children are abducted to be sold into forced labor or forced begging, to be recruited into armed forces or drug smuggling gangs, to be sold into illegal adoption, to be trafficked for sexual exploitation, or to be forced into marriage.
- Promote a culture of peace and tolerance in families and assist those experiencing abduction of their children
- **Tips for parents** : How to prevent child abduction. <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-topics/ue5155>
- Link to Faith and Children's Rights: A Multi-religious Study on the Convention on the Rights of the Child: [https://arigatouinternational.org/images/zdocs/files/209\\_CRC-Full-Study-Publication-web\\_compressed\\_v2\\_r3.pdf](https://arigatouinternational.org/images/zdocs/files/209_CRC-Full-Study-Publication-web_compressed_v2_r3.pdf)

#ENDviolence #SDG16.2 #19DaysWWSF #StopAbduction

2020 Call to Action Kit 19 Days of Activism for prevention of violence against children and youth 1-19 November  
Convener: Women's World Summit Foundation / Children-Youth Section - [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)



## Background Information

The UN General Assembly, through Resolution 69/157 of 18 December 2014, requested the Secretary-General to commission an in-depth global study on children deprived of liberty. In October 2016, Professor Manfred Nowak was appointed by the Task Force as Independent Expert leading the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty.

The Global Study is carried out in close cooperation with Governments, civil society organisations and various UN agencies, including OHCHR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNHCR, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on children in armed conflict, and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Besides engaging in desk research and collecting data on the magnitude of the phenomenon, the UN Global Study will take into account views from around the world through national and regional consultations in order to realize the endeavor of drastically changing the lives of all children deprived of liberty.

## What are the core objectives of the UN Global Study?

1. To bridge the data gap on the unknown number of children deprived of liberty worldwide.
2. To raise awareness about the risks of deprivation of liberty for children and society as a whole and promote a change in stigmatizing attitudes and behavior towards children concerned.
3. To collect best practices and develop recommendations for law, policy, and practice to safeguard the rights of children concerned, and prevent as well as significantly reduce the number of children deprived of liberty through effective non-custodial alternatives

## What are the key focus areas?

- I. Children deprived of liberty within the administration of justice
- II. Children deprived of liberty for migration-related reasons
- III. Children living in places of detention with their parents
- IV. Children deprived of liberty in institutions
- V. Children deprived of liberty in the context of armed conflict
- VI. Children deprived of liberty on national security grounds

Children around the world who are arrested and detained for alleged wrongdoing are often not given the protection they are entitled under international law. In many countries, children are charged and sentenced for acts that should not be crimes such as skipping school, running away from home, having consensual sex, and seeking or having an abortion.<sup>1</sup> Some states also treat certain children as if they were adults during their trial and sentencing. Sentences of death, life without parole, and corporal punishment are still handed down in some countries, in violation of international law.<sup>1</sup>

## UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty 2019

### Message from the Independent Expert Manfred Nowak, leading the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty

"More than seven million children worldwide are in fact deprived of liberty per year. They are detained in settings such as prisons, pre-trial detention centres, police custody, migration detention centres and institutions of all kinds, including institutions for children with disabilities. Still a conservative estimate, this figure stands in direct contrast to the requirement of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which clearly states that the detention of children shall be used only as a measure of last resort. This means that children shall be deprived of liberty only in exceptional circumstances on a case by case basis if non-custodial solutions are really not available or appropriate. Although some progress has already been achieved in recent years, it is evident that much more needs to be done in terms of deinstitutionalisation, diversion, ending migration-related detention and other measures in order to comply with the Convention. This is crucial since children under all circumstances have to be protected from the traumatic experiences detention settings inevitably create. (...)"

**To read the complete message:** <https://omniobook.com/view/e0623280-5656-42f8-9edf-5872f8f08562/page/7>

**2019 Report of the Independent Expert (11 July 2019)** <https://undocs.org/A/74/136>



**Relevant Sustainable Development Goal by 2030**

**Definition:** *Deprivation of liberty means any form of detention or imprisonment or the placement of a person under the age of 18 in a public or private custodial setting, from which this person is not permitted to leave at will, by order of any judicial, administrative or other public authority*

*UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty 1990 (Havana Rules)*

## More than 7 Million Children are Deprived of Liberty in the World

Data collected for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty 2019 and well-grounded scientific approximations indicate that, altogether, roughly **1.5 million** children are currently deprived of liberty per year on the basis of a judicial or administrative decision. Most children are deprived of liberty in institutions (**670,000**), followed by those in the administration of justice (**410,000**), in immigration detention (**330,000**), in armed conflict situations (**35,000**) and for national security reasons (**1,500**). An additional **19,000** children are living with their primary caregivers (usually mothers) in prisons. I wish to stress, however, that those figures, although arrived at on the basis of scientifically sound methodologies, remain highly conservative owing to the scarcity of official and reliable disaggregated data.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> - <https://www.hrw.org/topic/childrens-rights/juvenile-justice#> <sup>2</sup> - <https://omniobook.com/view/e0623280-5656-42f8-9edf-5872f8f08562/page/691>



# Theme 19

## Juvenile Justice & Children deprived of liberty



### General Ideas for Action!

- 1 **Support and promote**  
the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty  
<http://www.childrendeprivedofliberty.info>
- 2 **Promote**  
legislation that includes legal safeguards to protect the child's best interests; the child's right to freedom from violence and discrimination; to free and safe participation in proceedings, and to legal and other relevant assistance
- 3 **Emphasize**  
the necessity to improve prevention of offenses and contribute to the creation of structures, tools and projects helping children to discover and use their potential in areas other than criminal activity
- 4 **Lobby**  
your government to install alternative measures to deprivation of liberty, in legislation and in practice
- 5 **Promote**  
training of actors in the juvenile justice system on legislation and guidelines, children's rights, and child development. The actors concerned include the police, prosecutors, the judiciary, probation officers, lawyers, social workers, facilitators and mediators
- 6 **Promote**  
efficient coordination between all justice actors (the police, social welfare, schools, NGOs, local mediators and community volunteers)
- 7 **Encourage**  
informal justice systems, mechanisms such as religious authorities, traditional leaders, customary courts, tribal/clan social structures and community forums to align traditional conflict resolution practices with child-sensitive justice  
[http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/story/2015-01-28\\_1219](http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/story/2015-01-28_1219)
- 8 **Join**  
the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and participate in their activities at local, national and international levels <http://www.worldcoalition.org/>



Listen to the children with patience, compassion and to open up hearts and empathize with their feelings, emotions and COVID-19 challenges.



Create a Circle of Compassion



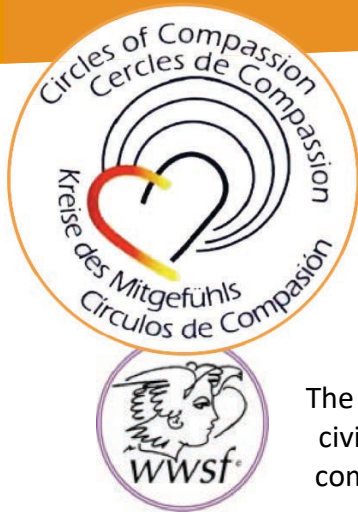
### WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- Mark the World Day Against the Death Penalty, 10 October, with activities, events, projects, etc.
- Mark the World Day for Prevention of child abuse - 19 November and use the annual Poster to announce your local activities and events to increase participation in ending violence against children and youth
- Create a youth group and use the 19 Days Campagne themes to speak out about violence and how to end it. Use the 20 November to remind everyone of children's rights
- Check out the Youth Solution Report 2018  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CoMNN9gUOcDpKWpmqBrnn52hvAXJAZ7IW/view>
- Get to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child,  
<http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/>

Youth:  
15 to 24  
years.  
1.2 billion  
estimated  
worldwide

### IDEAS FOR FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

- For the role and action of NGOs to the global study  
[https://childrendeprivedofliberty.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/GSCDL\\_NGO-Panel\\_Implementation-National-Action-Plan-June-2018.pdf](https://childrendeprivedofliberty.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/GSCDL_NGO-Panel_Implementation-National-Action-Plan-June-2018.pdf)
- Read the report on Children Deprived of Liberty 2019 and find some ideas for action



## How to

### Create a Circle of Compassion

A strategy to help create a world fit for children and youth.

**Making the Sustainable Development Goal**

**Target # 16.2 a reality:**

*\*« End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children »*

The Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) is pleased to share with civil society actors and the NGO community at large the idea of creating community Circles of Compassion to change the world compassionately.



#### Violence against children - Facts and figures (2020 source: UN SDG #16.2\*)

- Violence against children affects more than 1 billion children around the world and costs societies up to US\$ 7 trillion a year.
- 50% of the world's children experience violence every year.
- Every 5 minutes, somewhere in the world, a child is killed by violence
- 1 in 10 children is sexually abused before the age of 18.
- 9 in 10 children live in countries where corporal punishment is not fully prohibited, leaving 732 million children without legal protection.
- 1 in 3 internet users worldwide is a child and 800 million of them use social media. Any child can become a victim of online violence.
- Child online sexual abuse reports to NCMEC has grown from 1 million in 2014 to 45 million in 2018.
- 246 million children worldwide affected by school-related violence each year.
- 1 in 3 students has been bullied by their peers at school in the last month, and at least 1 in 10 children have experienced cyberbullying.

#### What is a Circle?

In her book "Women Circling the Earth", Beverly Engel offers a powerful guide to fostering community, healing and empowering. A circle is not just a gathering of people who sit in a circle on the floor or a meeting where the chairs are arranged in a circle. Circle meetings provide simple, yet powerful tools to help teach people how to communicate more honestly and openly. What we wish to promote is an alternative to box-like hierarchical structures and confining systems, which dominate today. Among other things, circles can help us to

- **listen without judgment**
- **foster cooperation and understanding**
- **help implement creative solutions to problems**
- **bridge differences**
- **help settle disputes and reach consensus**
- **encourage reconciliation and apology, etc.**

We live in a world that cultivates separateness between people. When people join together in circles, they become keenly aware that such separateness does not really exist on a deeper level. Circles help alleviate the feeling that we stand alone against the harshness and violence of modern society. They remind us that we are all one.

#### Circle Guidelines

Circles provide a replenishing and sanctuary place and can be considered laboratories of grace where people can learn to relate in a way so conflicts and problems can be resolved. To participate in a circle, all you need is the desire, the willingness to attend the meetings, and agree to follow the guidelines.

Each group determines their own rules but there are some universal circle guidelines that all agree to and help circle meetings to function more successfully. They include:

- **Invite** your friends, family and partners; create a special circle center - a space where you can put photos, flowers, candles, whatever your culture uses to celebrate a special time of relationships
- **Welcome** by the Circle convener and **begin** with a period of silent reflection
- **One person speaks at a time** – use a talking peace if necessary
- **Speak from the heart** and from your own experience
- **Listen for wisdom** with compassion and with discernment instead of judgment
- **Invite silence** and reflection when needed, in you and in the Circle
- **Take responsibility** for your experience and your impact on the Circle
- **Make decisions**, whenever possible, by consensus and write them down
- **Encourage and welcome** diverse points of view
- **Agree to hold the tension**, instead of rushing in to fix things
- **Keep the confidence of Circle discussions**; respect the trust relationship about what is shared
- **Feel free to add other guidelines** should Circle members find it useful to do so
- **Close** with fixing the date for your next meeting

Circle meetings are excellent places for people to learn positive lessons about power. Circles rotate leadership so that each member gets a chance to experience the role of the leader. There is no hierarchy, only interactive, distributed leadership and accountability.

### Create your own Circle of compassion

Invite your friends, colleagues and acquaintances and make sure to ask that people make a commitment to working within the circle to achieve the group objective. We encourage you to focus on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Agenda 2030, and especially focus on SDG Target # 16.2 and making it your rallying point.



**It takes compassion to end violence against children & youth**

**SDG Target 16.2 needs our contributions !** [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch) - [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch)

### You may wish to add a spiritual dimension to your Circle

A prayer-meditation component in your circle connects members to each other at the soul level, deepens the group, reveals what really matters to the members, and brings spirit into the circle and through the circle into everyday life. When opening the circle, use a go-around fashion to encourage each person to share briefly what is closest to their heart and what is most important in their lives at that particular moment. To close the circle, acknowledge any situation that was discussed and is in need of a remedy and have the circle give it its blessings. Close with a final go-around. It is important to provide ample time for silent prayer or contemplation for closing. Each person is free to pray in his/her own way. Circles are not intended to replace already established religious practices.

### Tell us about your Circle(s) / Circle Reports

We invite you to send a brief report on your Circle(s) of Compassion (name, place, theme and email) to WWSF E-mail [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch). It is planned to monitor the spread of Circles of compassion around the world, which will be published on the website.

For how many months or years a circle meets depends on many factors, like the quality of energy in the circle, its objectives, number and stability of participants, etc. Some circles have been known to last well beyond 10 or 15 years. Each circle manages itself autonomously. It is natural for members to start supporting each other and as the circle matures, various service activities in the community and/or supporting projects around the world are introduced by the circle members. The United Nations

Sustainable Development Goals – Agenda 2030 are a set of 17 objectives the world's governments have pledged to realize by 2030. Circles of compassion can help meet these vital development goals - transforming our world.

Please feel free to copy and circulate the circle guidelines with the mention of the source: ©WWSF2020 WWSF offers training workshops on how to create 'Circles of compassion' to speed up human development.

### Acknowledgements

WWSF wishes to acknowledge all the pioneers in circle work who have helped bring this idea to the world, such as the Chakra Circle, the Circle of Seven, The Women's International Dialogues, the Millionth Circle phenomena, Peer Spirit, Women Circling the Earth, Calling the Circle: The First and Future Culture, the Visualizing Alternative structures Video campaign, and others. In addition, we honor all the wise women everywhere, young and old, who continue to gather in circles as a way to bring the spirit of community closer together in their circle of hearts.

### Books on Circle formats and skills

- *The Millionth Circle*, Dr. Jean Shinoda Bolen
- *Women Circling the Earth: A Guide Fostering Community, Healing and Empowerment*, Beverly Engel
- *Calling the Circle: The First and Future Culture*, Christina Baldwin
- *Wisdom Circles: A Guide to Self-Discovery and Community Building*, Charles Garfield, Cindy Spring and Sedonia Cahill, and many more as circle building is a transformational tool to change the world.



### Registration and use of logo #WWSFcompassionCircles

To register your Circle, use the link to the registration form and you will be included in the WWSF coalition network for future updates. <https://www.woman.ch/19-days-of-activism-prevention-kit/training-workshops-creating-circles-of-compassion/>

Once we have received your circle program, we will grant you the use of the Circle of compassion logo® and include you in the WWSF list. Your Circle will also be mentioned in our annual Global Impact report.



### About WWSF

WWSF is a not-for-profit, international and humanitarian NGO, created as a Swiss Foundation in 1991, which serves with its annual campaigns, world days, prize awards & Round tables the realization of the UN Development Agenda and the advancement of women's and children's rights. WWSF has United Nations consultative status with ECOSOC, UNFPA and DPI.

### Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)

P.O.Box 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland

Tel. : +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - [wWSF@wWSF.ch](mailto:wWSF@wWSF.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

*Last Rev. June 2020)*

### WWSF - 19 Days Campaign Presentation banner:

"19 Days of activism for the prevention of violence against children & youth 1-19 November" (rev. 2020)

Choose any theme and transform your community with Circles of compassion to reach the SDG Target 16.2.



**Annual 19 Days Campaign Kit** available [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

The children are waiting for our contributions. It takes compassion to end violence against children.

## Women's World Summit Foundation - Call to Action!

### Prevention of violence against children & youth

Children in armed conflict	Prevention of sexual abuse	Prevention of bullying	Prevention of neglect
Prevention of child labor	Prevention of corporal punishment	Prevention of the sale of children	Prevention of child prostitution
Prevention of child pornography	Prevention of child trafficking	Prevention of child sex tourism	Prevention of harmful traditions
Street children	Disabilities	Prevention of substance abuse	Prevention of malnutrition
Prevention of ICTs Dangers	Prevention of abduction	Juvenile Justice	19-20 Nov. World Days Circles of Compassion



SDG Target # 16.2



19  
Nov.  
2020

**WORLD DAY Prevention of  
violence against children &  
youth - SDG Target # 16.2**

*In synergy with  
Universal Children's Day*

20  
Nov.  
2020



**It takes compassion  
to end violence  
against children & youth**

**Journée Mondiale prévention de la violence envers les enfants  
Día Mundial Prevención del violencia contra los Niños  
Welttag Vorbeugung von Gewalt an Kindern**

Every 5 minutes a child dies as a result of violence. We all have a role to play in ending abuse & violence

→ You are invited to use this poster and this space to publish your event and move others to join you. Share with us your plans and posters to help realize the UN **SDG Target # 16.2**: «*End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children*».

**Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate**

*"I support the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse – 19 November. Tragically thousands of children are abused daily, often by those closest to them. I endorse this campaign enthusiastically and hope that many more will offer their support." (2005)*

Organisation: Women's World Summit Foundation / Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)



Private Swiss  
Foundation



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS



The world is waiting for our contributions to end  
violence against children and youth by 2030.

## **CALL TO ACTION 2020: Commemorate the World Day – 19 November** **In synergy with the Universal Children's Day – 20 November 2020**

We call on all our coalition members, partners and friends around the world to participate again with local and national activities in the realization of the **UN Sustainable Development Goal Target #16.2** « *End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children* » to speed up urgent prevention of violence against children and youth in our challenging world today.

We invite you to use the campaign poster, add your name, logo and program of action and thereby increasing participation in creating a world fit for children and youth. With every 5 minutes a child dying as a result of violence around the world, we need to mobilize not only governments, but also all citizens – adults and youth - to commit to the full implementation of children's right to dignity and non-violence.

For those of you who are new to the 19 November World Day for prevention of child abuse, please note that the Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) inaugurated this Day in the year 2000 with endorsements from many dignitaries, including from Kofi Annan, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, Desmond Tutu, Her Majesty Queen Rania of Jordan, Jean Zermatten and Prof. Yang-hee Lee, both former chairs of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child; Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on violence against children; Najat Maalla M'jid, former UN Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, to mention some of them.

We propose to use our annual **campaign Kit "19 Days of activism for the elimination of violence against children and youth 1-19 November"**, with 19 themes and ideas for action, including for faith-based leaders and youth, and create circles of compassion published on our website. You can register your participation via email [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) and send us a copy of your program and poster, which we will share. **Together we can be the change that is needed to turn this world around.**



In solidarity, Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) Geneva -Switzerland - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

Convener of the **19 Days** campaign and the **World Day** for prevention of violence against children and youth **19 November**



## **APPEL À L'ACTION 2020 : Commémorez la Journée Mondiale pour l'élimination de la violence envers les enfants et les jeunes 19 novembre, en synergie avec la Journée mondiale de l'enfance 20 novembre 2020**

Nous appelons tous nos partenaires et amis de la coalition à travers le monde à participer à des activités locales et nationales pour la **réalisation de l'objectif 16.2 des Objectifs de Développement Durable de l'ONU** « *Mettre fin aux abus, à l'exploitation, au trafic et à toutes les formes de violence à l'égard des enfants et à la torture* » pour accélérer la prévention de la violence à l'égard des enfants et des jeunes dans le monde.

Nous vous invitons à utiliser l'affiche de la campagne, à ajouter votre nom, votre logo et votre programme d'action pour accroître la participation mondiale à la création d'un monde digne des enfants et des jeunes. Toutes les 5 minutes, un enfant mourant des suites de la violence dans le monde entier, nous devons mobiliser non seulement les gouvernements, mais également tous les citoyens - adultes et jeunes - pour qu'ils s'engagent à appliquer pleinement le droit des enfants à la dignité et à la non-violence.

Pour celles qui ne sont pas nouvelles à la Journée mondiale de la prévention de la maltraitance d'enfants du 19 novembre, veuillez noter que la Fondation du Sommet mondial des femmes (WWSF) a inauguré cette journée en 2000 avec l'aval de nombreuses personnalités, parmi lesquelles Kofi Annan, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, Desmond Tutu, Sa Majesté la reine Rania de Jordanie, Jean Zermatten et le professeur Yang-hee Lee, tous deux ex-présidents du Comité des droits de l'enfant des Nations Unies; Marta Santos Pais, Représentante spéciale du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies sur la violence à l'encontre des enfants; Najat Maalla M'jid, ancienne Rapporteuse spéciale des Nations Unies sur la vente d'enfants, la prostitution des enfants et la pornographie mettant en scène des enfants, pour ne citer que quelques-uns d'entre eux.

Nous proposons d'utiliser notre Kit «19 jours d'activisme pour l'élimination de la violence à l'égard des enfants et des jeunes du 1 au 19 novembre», traitant 19 thèmes et idées d'action, y compris pour les leaders religieux et les jeunes et de créer des cercles de compassion. Vous pouvez enregistrer votre participation auprès de la WWSF par e-mail à l'adresse [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) et nous envoyer une copie de votre programme et affiche, que nous partagerons sur notre site Web et sur les médias sociaux. **Ensemble, nous sommes le changement nécessaire pour transformer ce monde.**



En solidarité, Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes (FSMF/WWSF), CP 5490, 1211 Genève 11, Suisse – [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

Organisation de la campagne **19 Jours d'activisme** et de la **Journée Mondiale** pour l'élimination de la violence envers les enfants et les jeunes - **19 novembre**



# 20 November - Universal Children's Day



"**United Nations Universal Children's Day** was established in 1954 and is celebrated on November 20th each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare. November 20th is an important date as it is the date in 1959 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Since 1990, Universal Children's Day also marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the declaration and the convention on children's rights. Mothers and fathers, teachers, nurses and doctors, government leaders and civil society activists, religious and community elders, corporate moguls and media professionals as well as young people and children themselves can play an important part in making Universal Children's Day relevant for their societies, communities and nations.

Universal Children's Day offers each of us an inspirational entry-point to advocate, promote and celebrate children's rights, translating into dialogues and actions that will build a better world for Children."

**"Around the world, children are showing us their strength and leadership advocating for a more sustainable world for all. Let's build on advances and re-commit to putting children first. For every child, every right."**

- UN Secretary-General António Guterres" Source: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day>



# Ideas to plan your activities and events for the 19 Days Campaign

## CHOOSING AN ISSUE

Once you have chosen the issue(s) that interest you, do further research. Consult our list of resources and the WWSF Guide “Prevention is Key” online. Most importantly, before campaigning ask yourself questions such as:

- What sparked your interest in the 19 Days Campaign?
- What type of abuse(s) or violence do children in your community usually face?
- What are the laws in your country protecting children against any type of abuse or violence presented in the 19 Days Prevention Kit?
- Are there organizations in your country or community involved in the 19 Days Campaign? Use this as an opportunity to collaborate in creating action. It is in collaboration with these networks that you can increase your mobilization efforts and catalyze social change.

## PLANNING

Once you have made your choices, you can start planning an activity or an event on a particular day (or on several days in November). We encourage you to be creative and bold in your approach. Your activities can take various forms. You should take this opportunity to build links and reach a maximum number of people. Remember that the object is for you to convey your message within your community. Below is a list of ideas, some of which are from activities organized by WWSF coalition partners over the past 10 years.

### 1. Raise awareness

- Increase public consciousness and education about the why, what, and how about prevention and protection measures concerning abuse and violence
- Download the 19 Days Campaign logo, banner and poster (see below) from the website
- Build links through outreach programs, presentations, conferences, seminars, articles, books, media presentations, plays, marches, social networks, etc.
- Create banners, art, sketches, songs, talks; bring them to be displayed in schools and youth centers
- Prepare TV and radio spots or use the WWSF TV spot available online
- Implement safety rules in schools
- Organize information caravans in rural areas
- Translate the Prevention Kit into your national language and distribute it (contact WWSF for guidelines)
- Recreate/distribute the “WWSF Yellow Ribbon Campaign” to promote prevention

### 2. E-activism

- Introduce young people from your community/country to the website [www.YouthEngage.com](http://www.YouthEngage.com)
- Empower young people to become prevention actors and write a blog

### 3. Build skills

- Train parents to respect the opinions of their children
- Train children in good prevention measures, and make sure they know who to turn to or call in case of problems
- Introduce a ‘Code of Ethics’ with guidelines for prevention of abuse and violence against children and young people

### 4. Honor and involve new partners

- Become a candidate for the annual WWSF Prize for Prevention of Child Abuse by submitting your activity report at the end of the 19 Days Campaign from which the laureate organizations will be selected
- Involve the police and local authorities in your activity

### 5. Fundraise

- Organize a lottery, a show, or a gala dinner and transfer the benefits to a local NGO or charity working for prevention, or to help end a particular type of abuse

### 6. Organize concerts

- Involve famous local singers and artists and encourage them to support your cause
- Invite other groups to join you in publicizing your initiative and make it effective
- Involve famous local singers and artists and encourage them to support your cause

### 7. Organize a Circle of Compassion

- It takes compassion to end violence against children and youth. For more information, see Page 71

### 8. Political activities

- Hold your leaders accountable and lobby your government to ratify the Optional Protocols if they have not yet done so and to take all necessary measures for full implementation
- Launch a “Walk the Talk campaign” and regularly remind leaders to implement their promises made at numerous UN international conferences and national sessions
- Organize youth meetings with government members
- Implement new laws and prevention programs at the grass-roots level
- Learn lobby techniques and distribute information to state- and non-state actors
- Raise public and media awareness so that others join your initiative or launch a campaign of their own.



# World Days to inspire your advocacy work

**Selected relevant United Nations and civil society Annual World Days to inspire you for your programs of action during the Campaign and the whole year**

## **Jan.**

24 January International Day of Education

## **Feb.**

06 February International Day of Zero Tolerance of FGM

10 February Safer Internet Day

12 February International Day against the use of Child Soldiers

20 February World Day of Social Justice

## **Mar.**

8 March International Women's Day

20 March International Day of Happiness

21 March International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

22 March World Water Day

## **Apr.**

4 April International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

6 April International Day of Sport for Development and Peace

7 April World Health Day

12 April World Day for Street Children

21 April World Creativity and Innovation Day

22 April International Mother Earth Day

25 April World Malaria Day (WHO)

26 April World Intellectual Property Day (WIPO)

## **May**

3 May World Press Freedom Day

16 May International Day of Living Together in Peace

21 May World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

## **June**

4 June International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

5 June World Environment Day

12 June World Day to End Child Labor

15 June World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

16 June International Day of the African Child

19 June International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

20 June World Day for Refugees

26 June International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

# World Days to inspire your advocacy work

cont'd.

## July

4 July	International Day of Cooperatives
11 July	World Population Day
30 July	World Day against Trafficking in Persons

## Aug.

9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
12 August	International Youth Day
19 August	World Humanitarian Day
29 August	International Day against Nuclear Tests

## Sept.

8 September	International Literacy Day
9 September	International Day to Protect Education from Attack
15 September	International Day of Democracy
18 September	International Equal Pay Day
21 September	International Day of Peace
28 September	International Day for Universal Access to Information

## Oct.

1 October	International Day of Older Persons
2 October	International Day of Non-Violence
5 October	World Teachers' Day
5 October	World Habitat Day
11 October	International Day of the Girl Child
15 October	International Day of Rural Women
16 October	World Food Day
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
24 October	United Nations Day

## Nov.

1-19 November	19 Days of Activism for Prevention of Violence Against Children and Youth
2 November	World Day for Circles of Compassion (In support of SDG Target 16.2)
10 November	World Science Day for Peace and Development
19 November	World Day for Prevention of Violence Against Children and Youth
20 November	Universal Children's Rights Day
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

## Dec.

1 December	World AIDS Day
3 December	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
10 December	Human Rights Day
12 December	Universal Health Coverage Day
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day

# Advertising your event(s)

Once you have planned your activity, you need to advertise it in order to reach a maximum number of people and to run a successful campaign.

## How to advertise

Here are some ideas:

- Email your network and ask your contacts to forward your email within their own networks
- Use religious channels or faith-based groups to increase awareness; ask them to pass the message on to their congregations
- Use social networks; remember Facebook or Twitter can enable you to mobilize a large number of people in a short amount of time
- Hand out leaflets, flyers, stickers, etc.
- Hang posters across your neighborhood/city
- Create a YouTube video and broadcast it
- Broadcast your event on the radio or television
- Send out press releases, articles, newsletters

**Most importantly, remember to keep your message clear and simple to ensure a greater impact.**

## Relations with the Media

Learning how to mobilize the media can be a difficult task. Here are some suggestions:

### When to contact the Media

Designate one or two people from your organization or group to talk to the media on your behalf. They must express themselves clearly and understand the objectives of your event/activity.

Your spokespersons are only authorized to speak on behalf of your organization/group, not on behalf of WWSF. When they are speaking to the media in their position as spokespersons, they must only express the views and aims of your own “19 Days of Activism Campaign.”

From time-to-time, contact journalists to let them know what is happening. Tell them you have heard that in other cities, local papers or radio/TV stations are putting out special reports at the beginning of the 19 Days of Activism.

### Organize a press conference

In larger cities, you might set up a press conference for the local media a day or two before your event/activity. Try to involve one or two well-known local personalities in order to give the press conference additional credibility and a higher profile. Make sure that they are familiar with the “19 Days of Activism for Prevention of Abuse and Violence Against Children and Youth.”

Contact the local media two or three days beforehand with a press release announcing the press conference or event. Send them a reminder the day before or on the morning of the conference. The best times for press conferences are between 10:00 AM and midday – so that they have time to prepare an item for that evening’s news or write-ups for the following day.

Have a moderator to introduce the people on the press panel. Start with brief statements by each person. Then open up the floor for questions for a half-hour or so. Pass around a sign-up sheet so that you can contact the people again.

If possible, please send us copies of press articles related to your activities so that we better understand the local/national impact of your campaign.



# Cont'd. Advertising your event(s)

## How to answer media questions

Where possible, give very short and concise answers, especially for radio and TV. Talk slowly, especially if someone is taking notes. Sharing how the issue resonates with you on a personal level can have a strong impact on your message. Remember that personal examples are appreciated.

Make sure that if you are talking about someone else, you have his/her permission. When you speak on behalf of the 19 Days of Activism Campaign, avoid giving your personal opinion in order not to modify the essence of the international campaign.

If a journalist asks you about your personal opinion, you can present your ideas by nuancing them. If he/she insists and you are not sure about the answer to a question, be firm and do not answer it. Don't get drawn into arguments. A reporter might use an argument to get you to say things you wouldn't particularly want to say.

There's no harm pausing to compose your thoughts. You do not have to answer a question if you do not want to. Make sure you get in the points you want to make. Avoid sarcasm, irony, or jokes that could be misconstrued if taken out of context.

As your initiatives move forward, a growing grass-roots interest can be expected to attract the attention of media people. Journalists, editors, T.V. and radio commentators will begin to include you in their coverage of various issues. The involvement of the media will provide important, complementary input into raising public awareness and encouraging mobilization.

## Fundraising

We also encourage you to raise funds for your local project(s). To do so you can, for example, ask for non-monetary donations, e.g. persuade local newspapers to print free ads and radio and TV stations to run free public-service announcements. You can also organize events such as concerts, gala dinners, art auctions, etc. to raise funds.

Try to keep your own expenses as low as possible. If you need an office or workspace, find a local group to donate space and find businesses or groups to donate furniture and basic office supplies.

## Keep track of funds

You must be transparent and vigilant. If you are a sub-committee of an existing organization (school board, a business, etc.), then ensure that it verifies the money you receive and spend, and keeps records of all transactions.

Tips and resources on how to fundraise

- Funds for NGOs, Grants and Resources for Sustainability: <http://www.fundsforngos.org>
- The Foundation Center: <http://fdncenter.org/>
- eHow – How to Fund Raise Effectively for a Nonprofit Organization  
[http://www.ehow.com/how\\_15341\\_fund-raise-effectively.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_15341_fund-raise-effectively.html)
- Better-fundraising.ideas.com  
<http://www.better-fundraising-ideas.com/>
- About.com – Nonprofit Charitable Organizations  
<http://nonprofit.about.com/od/fundraising/u/happydonors.htm>

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

WWSF is also fundraising for the coordination, research and publishing of the annual Prevention Kits (English and French) and follow-up with active coalition members. and writing a Global Impact Report. Every donation, no matter the size, will help advance the building of a culture for prevention of violence and achieve the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. We thank you in advance for investing in the creation of a world fit for children and youth - an idea whose time has come. We all have a role to play.

WWSF Bank account No.: CH IBAN CH1900788000050701412 / \$ IBAN CH8900788000050701413

# 19 Days Activity Report Guidelines for 2020

In order to learn more about the activities of coalition members, and to share the impact of your prevention work, WWSF kindly asks that each registered, active member organization submit an Activity Report via email to [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) (deadline: 01.15.2020).

WWSF will include a summary of your activities in the 19 Days Global Impact Report 2020 and publish it online together with selected photos, videos, and press releases. These materials may also be shared via other outlets to increase awareness of your innovations.

**REMINDER:** The 19 Days Campaign Activity Report will be the basis for WWSF to select the 2020 Laureate organizations for the Annual Innovation Prize for Prevention of Violence and Abuse against Children and Youth. To date, 58 coalition organizations have been awarded and honored with the WWSF prize. All Laureate organizations are published on the Internet and receive a certificate and monetary award. Link: <https://www.woman.ch/19-days-of-activism-prevention-kit/wwsf-innovation-prize-19-days-activism-for-prevention-of-violence-against-children-and-youth/>

## Please be sure to address the following points in your 2020 report

- Name of organization (and acronym), city and country, telephone number, email address, website (if applicable)
- What theme/s you selected (amongst the 19 campaign themes), and the relevance of the chosen theme/s in your community
- What type of activities you organized (i.e. social media campaigns, press conferences, trainings and seminars, awareness-raising sessions, public events, film screenings, etc.)
- Description of activities (max. 1 page)
- What campaign materials were used and disseminated, and how you advertised your events
- The estimated number of people reached by your activities
- Collaboration/participation with other civil society organizations/NGOs, youth clubs, schools, UN agencies, business partners, government officials, media, etc.)
- The impact of your activities in your community and towards preventing violence against children and youth in your target area

Additional information you may wish to send

We thank you in advance for sending to [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) selected event photos, links to and copies of media coverage, event websites and declarations, videos and TV spots produced, and campaign/promotional materials you created for your campaign, which we will share via our network, including Facebook and Twitter after our selection process.

# Brief summary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

<http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>

## Preamble

The preamble recalls the basic principles of the United Nations and specific provisions of certain relevant human rights treaties and proclamations. It reaffirms the fact that children, because of their vulnerability, need special care and protection, and it places special emphasis on the primary caring and protective responsibility of the family. It also reaffirms the need for legal and other protections for the child before and after birth, the importance of respect for the cultural values of the child's community and the vital role of international cooperation in securing children's rights.

## Article 1

Definition of a child. A child is recognized as every human being under 18 years old, unless national laws recognize an earlier age of majority.

## Article 2

Non-discrimination. All rights apply to all children without exception. It is the State's (national government's) obligation to protect children from any form of discrimination and to take positive action to promote their rights.

## Article 3

Best interests of the child. All actions concerning the child shall take full account of his or her best interests. The State shall provide the child with adequate care when parents, or others charged with parental responsibility, fail to do so.

## Article 4

Implementation of rights. The State must do all it can to implement the rights contained in the Convention.

## Article 5

Parental guidance and the child's evolving capacities. The State must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents and the extended family to provide guidance for the child that is appropriate to his or her evolving capacities.

## Article 6

Life, survival and development. Every child has the inherent right to life, and the State has an obligation to ensure the child's survival and development.

## Article 7

Name and nationality. The child has the right to a name at birth. The child also has the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, to know his or her parents and be cared for by them.

## Article 8

Preservation of identity. The State has an obligation to protect and, if necessary, re-establish basic aspects of the child's identity. This includes name, nationality and family ties.

## Article 9

Separation from parents. The child has a right to live with his or her parents unless this is deemed incompatible with the child's best interests. The child also has the right to maintain contact with both parents if separated from one or both.

## Article 10

Family reunification. Children and their parents have the right to leave any country and to enter their own for purposes of reunion or the maintenance of the child-parent relationship.

## Article 11

Illicit transfer and non-return. The State has an obligation to prevent and remedy the kidnapping or retention abroad of children by a parent or third party.

## Article 12

Respect of the child's views. The child has the right to express his or her opinion freely and to have that opinion taken into account in any matter or procedure affecting the child.

## Article 13

Freedom of expression. The child has the right to express his or her views, obtain information and make ideas or information known, regardless of frontiers.

## Article 14

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion. The State shall respect the child's right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, subject to appropriate parental guidance.

## Article 15

Freedom of association. Children have a right to meet with others, and to join or form associations.

## Article 16

Protection of privacy. Children have the right to protection from interference with their privacy, family, home and correspondence, and to protection from libel or slander.

## Article 17

Access to appropriate information. The State shall ensure the accessibility to children of information and material from a diversity of sources, and it shall encourage the mass media to disseminate information that is of social and cultural benefit to the child, and take steps to protect him or her from harmful materials.

## Article 18

Parental responsibilities. Parents have joint primary responsibility for raising the child, and the State shall support them in this. The State shall provide parents with appropriate child-raising assistance.

## Article 19

Protection from abuse and neglect. The State shall protect the child from all forms of maltreatment by parents or others responsible for the child's care and shall establish appropriate social programs for the prevention of abuse and the treatment of victims.

## Article 20

Protection of a child without family. The State is obliged to provide special protection for a child deprived of the family environment and to ensure that appropriate alternative family care or institutional placement is available in such cases. Efforts to meet this obligation shall pay due regard to the child's cultural background.

## Article 21

Adoption. In countries where adoption is recognized and/or allowed, it shall be carried out only in the best interests of the child, and then only with the authorization of competent authorities and safeguards for the child.

## Article 22

Refugee children. Special protection shall be granted to a refugee child or to a child seeking refugee status. It is the State's obligation to cooperate with competent organizations that provide such protection and assistance.

## Article 23

Disabled children. A disabled child has the right to special care, education and training to help him or her enjoy a full and decent life in dignity and achieve the greatest degree of self-reliance and social integration possible.

## Article 24

Health and health services. The child has a right to the highest standard of health and medical care attainable. States shall place special emphasis on the reduction of infant and child mortality and on the provision of primary and preventive health care and of public health education. They shall encourage international cooperation in this regard and strive to see that no child is deprived of access to effective health services.

## Article 25

Periodic review of placement. A child who is placed by the State for reasons of care, protection or treatment is entitled to have that placement evaluated regularly.

# Brief summary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (cont'd)

<http://childrenandbusiness.org/the-principles/summary-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>

## Article 26

Social security. The child has the right to benefit from social security, including social insurance.

## Article 27

Standard of living. Every child has the right to a standard of living adequate for his or her physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. Parents have the primary responsibility to ensure that the child has an adequate standard of living. The State's duty is to ensure that this responsibility can be, and is, fulfilled. State responsibility can include material assistance to parents and their children.

## Article 28

Education. The child has a right to education, and the State's duty is to ensure that primary education is free and compulsory, to encourage different forms of secondary education accessible to every child, to make higher education available to all on the basis of capacity and to ensure that school discipline is consistent with children's rights and dignity. The State shall engage in international cooperation to implement the right to education.

## Article 29

Aims of education. Education shall aim to develop the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to the fullest extent. Education shall prepare the child for an active adult life in a free society and shall foster in the child respect for his or her parents, for his or her own cultural identity, language and values, and for the cultural background and values of others.

## Article 30

Children of minorities or indigenous populations. Children of minority communities and indigenous populations have the right to enjoy their own culture and to practice their own religion and language.

## Article 31

Leisure, recreation and cultural activities. The child has the right to leisure, play and participation in cultural and artistic activities.

## Article 32

Child labor. The child has the right to be protected from work that threatens his or her health, education or development. The State shall set minimum ages for employment and shall regulate working conditions.

## Article 33

Drug abuse. Children have the right to protection from the use of narcotic and psychotropic drugs, and from being involved in their production or distribution.

## Article 34

Sexual exploitation. The State shall protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse, including prostitution and involvement in pornography.

## Article 35

Sale, trafficking and abduction. It is the State's obligation to make every effort to prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children.

## Article 36

Other forms of exploitation. The child has the right to protection from all forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare not covered in articles 32–35.

## Article 37

Torture and deprivation of liberty. No child shall be subjected to torture, cruel treatment or punishment, unlawful arrest or deprivation of liberty. Both capital punishment and life imprisonment without the possibility for release are prohibited for offences committed by persons below age 18. Any child deprived of liberty shall be separated from adults unless it is considered in the child's best interests not to do so. A child who is detained shall have legal and other assistance as well as contact with the family.

## Article 38

Armed conflicts. States shall take all feasible measures to ensure that children under 15 years old have no direct part in hostilities. No child below 15 shall be recruited into the armed forces. States shall also ensure the protection and care of children who are affected by armed conflict as described in relevant international law.

## Article 39

Rehabilitative care. The State has an obligation to ensure that child victims of armed conflict, torture, maltreatment or exploitation receive appropriate treatment for their recovery and social reintegration.

## Article 40

Administration of juvenile justice. A child in conflict with the law has the right to treatment that promotes the child's sense of dignity and worth, takes the child's age into account and aims at his or her defense. Judicial proceedings and institutional placements shall be avoided wherever possible.

## Article 41

Respect for higher standards. Wherever standards set in applicable national and international law relevant to the rights of the child are higher than those in this Convention, the higher standards shall always apply.

## Articles 42–54

Implementation and entry into force. These articles notably foresee:

- the entry into force of the Convention 30 days after its ratification or accession by 20 States;
- States parties' obligation to make the rights of the Convention widely known to both adults and children;
- the establishment of a Committee on the Rights of the Child to consider the reports that States parties are required to submit two years after they have ratified the Convention and every five years thereafter;
- States parties' obligation to submit said reports to the Committee on measures they have taken to fulfill the Convention and the progress being made in their implementation;
- States parties' obligation to make their reports widely known in their own countries;
- International cooperation in the field covered by the Convention achieved by inviting UNICEF and the specialized agencies of the United Nations – such as the International Labor organization, the World Health organization and United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural organization – along with 'competent' bodies such as non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations to attend Committee meetings and provide expert advice on areas within the scope of their activities, and by the Committee's referring to them States parties' requests for technical advice and assistance;
- the Committee's right to recommend to the General Assembly that special studies be undertaken on specific issues relating to the rights of the child. The rights of the child articulated by the Convention are further reinforced by its Optional Protocols on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

*The full version of the Convention and its optional Protocols can be found at:*  
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/>

Link to Child Rights Now!

A Second Revolution: Thirty years of child rights, and the unfinished agenda

[https://child-rights-now.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/A-Second-Revolution\\_ENG.pdf](https://child-rights-now.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/A-Second-Revolution_ENG.pdf)



*The children are waiting for SDG Target #16.2 to become reality.*

**Let's keep  
the Promise  
Walk the Talk**

**Cumplan  
sus  
Promesas**



**Tenez  
vos  
Promesses**

**أوفوا  
بما وعدتم**

**We had a dream, & now we have a promised plan**  
Participate using the WWSF Kit 19Days Activism 1-19 November

# Children's Rights are Human Rights



Thank you for your participation in the 20 campaign for prevention of violence against children and youth, and to commemorate the World Day for prevention of violence against children and youth - 19 November.

**Convener: WWSF-Women's World Summit Foundation  
Children-Youth Section**

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